



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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## THE DARK TOWER (2017) | *Forgetting Your Father* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: *We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.*

### PRESS START

In the movie, **The Dark Tower (2017)**, Jake Chambers is haunted by dreams so real he is completely convinced they aren't dreams at all. **ASK: Have you ever experienced a similar situation?**

### EQUIP

In this movie, we are introduced to Roland (played by Idris Elba), a once-proud soldier who stood in the face of darkness with great skill along with some sort of supernatural ability that kept him from succumbing to his mystical enemy. Because of his resistance, "The Man in Black" (Walter O'Dim, played by Matthew McConaughey), did the one thing he could do against Roland, since his words could not affect him directly: He attacked those in Roland's life. The pain and stress of seeing everyone taken away caused him to lose sight of his purpose. After the devastation, he was tortured with thoughts of failure and revenge, thus losing sight of what was important.

A running theme in the movie is the phrasing of forgetting the face of your father. The implication here is you've lost sight of who you truly are, creating a kind of "orphan mentality." Often, those who find themselves orphaned without the privilege of finding someone to step in and correctly fulfill the role of parent will act out because the grounding a family brings does not exist for them. There's not that peace of knowing you have or have had a father there to teach, guide, and affirm you. People develop the "orphan mentality" not just through the physical death of a parent, but with today's rampant divorce statistics and rapid rise of single parent households, there are more people struggling to find validation and be who God created them to be. **With that said, where does our real identity come from? How do we avoid the pitfalls of being spiritually orphaned?**

## LEVEL UP

The first thing that needs to be understood is when you go through hard times, they are often opportunities for you to grow in your faith. Yes, if there is need to grieve, then by-all-means, do so. Still, hard times are not always one-sided and should not be looked at as such.

**James 1:2-4 (Tree of Life Version)** *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Here, James is reminding the people they don't have to be absolutely destroyed when it comes to difficulties in life. Rather, he reminds them this testing of their faith produces endurance, and out of that, they should allow endurance to work, so they can become perfect and complete. The problem is in life, our enemy lies to us and says we are nothing and have nothing because of "insert-situation-here."

Over and over, "The Man In Black" used his words as his weapon of choice against those he came across, and while his words could do nothing physically to the Gunslinger, it did pierce his spirit. Many times throughout the movie, we witness Roland struggling because of the words spoken to him by Walter. He believed himself to be defeated, so he acted so. He should have done as James instructs us to do and allowed his trials to make him stronger.

We also need to understand our identity is not about what we do or who is around us, but that it is given to us by God. Often, people place more stock in jobs, positions, or hobbies than they do in their identity as Christians.

**Romans 8:15 (Tree of Life Version)** *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall again into fear; rather, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Our salvation isn't about a membership to a denomination or fellowship. Our salvation is about a restored relationship to the Heavenly Father. So, when we feel like we've been abandoned, everything is falling apart, or like everything we associate with our identity has been completely stripped away; we must lean on God. If we have received a spirit of adoption, how can we be orphans? It only happens if we "forget the face of our Father," our Heavenly Father.

## MOD

Now that we understand the source of our identity and that hard things in our lives can help us grow rather than destroy us, **how do we avoid finding ourselves to be just like Roland? ASK: How do we, on our own, avoid becoming jaded and not “forget the face of our father”?** There are many great things you can do as an individual, but Scripture tells us it is important to have others in our life to lift us up.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (Tree of Life Version)** *Two are better than one, because they get a good return for their effort. For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But oy to the one who falls and has no one to lift him up!*

Looking at that passage, it says very clearly we need others, so when we do stumble someone is there to lift us up. Still, **what does that look like practically? ASK: How do we help each other out when we are struggling with our own identity as children of God?**

## PRAY

Today, some of us may be feeling like we've lost something important to our identity. If that's so, we want to take a moment to pray for each other and help encourage each other. **Ask the group if anyone would like to share a struggle; if they feel uncomfortable, remind everyone if they need to talk later to contact you or another leader they can trust. Take up any prayer requests and take turns praying for each other.**

## THE NEXT LEVEL

**1 John 3:1 (TLV)** *See how glorious a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God's children—and so we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.*

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