



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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Venom (2018) | Relationships with Grace | 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

Venom was a fun, action-packed and often funny film. One of the running gags was Venom's hunger and Eddie's disgust for Venom's food of choice...people's heads. In the comics, Eddie and Venom walk a not-so-straight and narrow line while trying to defend those in need. During this time period, Venom discovers eating chocolate would curb his appetite for...people's heads.

Ask: *Let's say you are suddenly possessed by a human head eating symbiote...what kind of snack would you want to curb your hunger?*

EQUIP

In the film, we see a change in Venom. In the beginning, he makes it clear he's ok with the world domination aspect of society's habits. Towards the end of the film, however, he changes his mind. Eddie, of course, presses Venom to discover his motives, asking, "What changed your mind?" to which Venom replied, "You did." There was something about his relationship with Eddie that made him realise things could be different than the chaotic life his people raised him to believe.

Ask: *Have you ever been in a relationship with someone that caused you to change your outlook on life? Has your relationship with another person caused a change in their lives? If so, would any of you like to share what that experience was like?*

LEVEL UP

In Joshua 2, Joshua has sent spies to examine Jericho. Jericho was inhabited by Canaanites, a polytheistic group whose worship involved the sacrifice of babies and extreme perversion. When the spies went into Jericho to discover its weaknesses, something interesting happened.

Read Joshua 2:1-6

On the surface, Rahab has zero reasons to hide these spies. She could have easily handed them over and let the government deal with them as they pleased.

Ask: *If you were in her shoes and knew the exact location of spies that your people, people you grew up with and had a long lasting relationship with, were looking for, what would you do?*

She had grown up in this dark and perverted society just like the rest of them; why would she be willing to help them? We discover our answer in the following verses.

Read Joshua 2:8-11

We discover before she had met these men, she had heard of the reputation of their God. In fact, many of the people had heard the stories and were frightened. But now seeing these men, she realises something: Their God is real and someone to trust. We can infer this because of the request she makes in the following verses.

Read Joshua 2:12-13

Like Venom forsaking Riot, she was willing to forsake her countrymen, heritage, and the customs she

was raised with to do the right thing and trust in the Lord. What's equally important to this story is the response of the people of God.

Read Joshua 2:14-19

Notice the men did not shame her or assume she was just lying. They cautiously trusted her. They let her show them she was serious. Then later, after the walls of Jericho had fallen, the people of God did the right thing: They followed through with their word.

Read Joshua 5:22-23

MOD

So what is our response? First, we need to walk in the understanding that there is an unbelieving world out there, much of which has received some sort of word as the reputation of God and His people. Sadly, some of that reputation is sullied due to people abusing the name of our Lord. Like Rahab and Venom, they need to experience something different. That experience needs to come from having a healthy relationship with the followers of Jesus Christ. When the carriers of God's presence encounter the world in an appropriate, God-honoring manner, people's minds begin to change. Their minds don't change because of our words, but because of the witness of the Holy Spirit through us. We need to speak to them with grace and kindness as we show them the Lord.

Read: John 16:13-14, John 15:26, Mark 13:11, Colossians 4:5-6

At the same time, we need to have some grace for young believers who are just now beginning their path. We can assume Rahab had to take time to adjust to the new culture she had become a part of. Mistakes were bound to be made, because someone needed to show her and her family a better way. Venom needed to be taught not to bite people's heads off. We need to remember new believers are just that - new! Everyone who calls themselves a follower of Jesus was at one point a sinner who put their faith in Jesus. At that point, they did not fully understand sound doctrine and the practices of the Christian lifestyle. They needed grace and training by someone with humility.

Read: Ephesians 2: 11-13, 1 Corinthians 8

PRAY

End the meeting by taking up prayer requests. During the prayer, take time to specifically pray for God to open doors for us to develop relationships with unbelievers and help us to have a humble spirit to help raise those young in the faith.

THE NEXT LEVEL

1 Corinthians 9:19 *"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them."*

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