

## **Amazing Grace**

### **Ready:**

"Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you."

-1 Peter 4:4

### **Set**

In his younger years, Bill had been an athlete. As he grew up, however, he made some decisions that took him away from his athletic roots. He started getting involved with drugs, alcohol and people who took him down many wrong paths. Because of his lifestyle, he was in and out of fights, hospitals and trouble for many, many years. His life was heading toward destruction.

William Wilberforce was a man of passion who was inspired by minister John Newton to serve the Lord. Wilberforce was involved in politics, and because of his faith, many of his friends turned their backs on him and began to talk negatively about him in public. But this did not stop Wilberforce. He maintained his battle for the Lord and fought to end slavery in England for many years. It finally ended in 1833. His theme song throughout his journey was "Amazing Grace," which was penned by Newton after Newton saw the damage he was doing by owning and running slave ships.

Bill's is a story of amazing grace, as well. As he shares his testimony, he recalls his life of sin and how, when he came to Christ, many of his old friends could not believe he'd changed. But it did, and he lost many of those friends. Since then, his new goal is to reach his unsaved friends for Christ. He also spends time inspiring fourth and fifth grade boys to live lives for Christ in spite of what their friends say. He is making a difference in their hearts.

Newton touched a young William Wilburforce, and Bill is touching the hearts of our future men. What about you? Has God done something amazing in you with His grace? If so, make a difference in someone else's life today! If God's grace was so amazing for Newton, Bill and for me, I know it will be for you!

### **Go**

1. How has God changed your life?
2. Have you seen God's grace work a miracle in your life?
3. Today, how can you make a difference in another life because of what He did in yours?

### **Workout**

Romans 2:23-24

1 Corinthians 15:10

Ephesians 2:8



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