

SYNOPSIS

Message two reinforces the instructions for Grace Bombing in looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith as He Loaded, Listened, and Let 'er go in delivering the ultimate Grace Bomb of the atonement on the cross. Each step adds depth and practical insight to our Grace Bombing adventures. This message speaks to the intentional awareness and proximity to our neighbors, to the need for prayer as we carry out our missions, and Jesus as our ultimate motivation in loving our neighbors. In closing the sermon we reflect on the amazing gift of a new identity in Christ that becomes the fuel supply for pouring out our love among our neighbors.

BIG IDEA

Jesus is our ultimate example and motivation for Grace Bombing.

KEY TEXTS

John 1:1-3, 14
Hebrews 4:14-16
Luke 22:42-44
Isaiah 53:4-6
Ephesians 1:4-14

SLIDE 1

SLIDE 2

SLIDE 3

SLIDE 4

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- Recap the instruction manual for Grace Bombing: Load, Listen, Let 'er go!
- Recap Ephesians 2:10 - Grace Built People Grace Bomb People
- Share a story or two from yourself, or from your congregation.

Transition: Today we look to Jesus, the Master Bomber who gives us the ultimate examples of loving our neighbors following that same pattern of Load, Listen, Let'er Go!



JESUS LOADED

Practically speaking for Grace Bombing, being loaded means having cards on you -

but it is also being prepared and making a decision to be aware.

Jesus first loaded with a physical body - His incarnation.

In the prologue of John's gospel we see Jesus' eternal nature being described:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. - John 1:1-3

- Jesus is eternal - existing with God the Father before creation
- He is described as the agent of creation

SLIDE 5

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

- The author of DNA wraps himself in DNA - at the first Christmas.
- In putting on a body He drew near to us.

Optional Prop Illustration

Jesus got in it with us... **Step 1:** Pour material into a container large enough to sit in that represents our natural world and all that fill it. **Step 2:** Sit down and get cozy in that container **Step 3:** Preach for a few minutes about what your illustration is:

- He enters the world He made.
- He gets pain, struggle, abandonment, bullying, hate, and material temptation, etc.
- Prior to His public ministry Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tempted to cut God out, sell God out, and call God out! Things we face all the time.

The Author of Hebrews makes clear that Jesus was deeply aware of the realities of human life:

SLIDE 6

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. – Hebrews 4:14-16

SLIDE 7

Jesus felt our struggles and temptations.

- Jesus got close, and gets us.

We can grow in Grace Bombing by getting close, and empathizing with our neighbors.

- **What might that person be feeling?** Is a powerful question to ask, as we consider how to love our neighbors.

**A Grace Bomb story
with empathy:**

“When I came into work I had a letter in my mailbox. Inside was a generous gift card, and an incredibly encouraging note along with a Grace Bomb. The note was incredibly genuine and more than made my day. The evening previous I had been talking to my wife about how discouraging my work can be at times, so the timing was perfect.”

Jesus got close physically and emotionally, and so can we.



SLIDE 8

JESUS LISTENED

In Grace Bombing “Listening” has to do with prayer and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Here we see a lesson from Jesus on how prayer can strengthen us to carry out Grace Bombing others.

Setting the context: This may have been one of the most important prayers of Jesus pertaining to the ultimate Grace Bomb of the cross. It is found in the garden of Gethesame on the night that Jesus was betrayed.

With his death now imminent, Jesus prays in light of His natural human weakness and aversion to pain and death:

SLIDE 9

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” – Luke 22:42-44

SLIDE 10

Here Jesus seeks God’s will and was strengthened in reverent prayer.

This immediately became a spiritual lesson for the disciples, and for us:

SLIDE 11

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26:41

- The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak
- Takeaway: we need to pray to do the right things we know we should do too!
- Listening in prayer fills the gap with God’s help and strength!
 - Grace Bombers need this same kind of help in prayer.

SLIDES 12-13

We fill the gap between knowing and doing through meaningful prayer.



SLIDE 14

JESUS LET 'ER GO!

Each step to the cross was an intentional step of love being carried out with steadfast love. Isaiah saw that day coming when he said 740 years before Jesus was born:

SLIDE 15

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6

SLIDE 16

His steps should have been ours to take.

- This love is the driving force of our love - and our ultimate motivation for Grace Bombing



Jesus' Grace Bomb gives us a Supernatural Fuel Supply to draw from:

SLIDE 17

CHOSEN

SLIDE 18

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. Ephesians 1:4

- God was thinking about you before the earth was formed.

SLIDE 19

ADOPTED

SLIDE 20

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:5-6

- We have to be placed into God's family.

SLIDE 21

REDEEMED & FORGIVEN

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight... Ephesians 1:7-8

- Our sin debts are paid, and our guilt and shame are removed

SLIDE 23

WISDOM

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

- The mystery of the good news of how life is supposed to work

SLIDE 25

HEIR

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will... Ephesians 1:11

- Our eternal inheritance is Imperishable (it will never run out) undefiled (perfect and pure) and unfading (it will never get old, but only more beautiful and interesting)

SLIDE 27

SEALED

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

- The person of the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, and that will never change.

*Closing Charge: The Result of Jesus' Grace Bomb of the cross is **having every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**. Out of this abundance, we freely give. Let us be fueled by this truth and filled today to follow in the steps of our Master Bomber: ready to take time to get closer to a neighbor, to be emboldened through prayer, and taking action out of our comfort zones as Grace Built people.*