

Small Group Guide: Amazing Grace - Ephesians 2:1-10

Opening Question:

What does "grace" mean to you? Share a time when you experienced grace from someone else.

Key Takeaways:

1. We were spiritually dead in our sins, enslaved to the ways of the world and spiritual forces of evil.
2. God, rich in mercy and love, made us alive with Christ through grace.
3. Salvation is God's gift, not earned by our works, so that no one can boast.
4. We are God's workmanship, created for good works He prepared in advance.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor talked about "expressive individualism" in our culture. How have you seen this play out in society or your own life?
2. How does the idea of being "dead in trespasses and sins" (v.1) contrast with how people typically view themselves?
3. The sermon mentioned chronic self-doubt, virtue signaling, and loneliness as symptoms of our cultural beliefs. Can you relate to any of these? How so?
4. Verse 4 says, "But God, who is rich in mercy..." How does this transition change the entire narrative of our lives?
5. How does understanding salvation as a gift (not earned by works) impact your view of God and yourself?
6. The pastor used the analogy of light and salt to explain how following Jesus makes us our true selves. What are your thoughts on this concept?
7. How might your life look different if you fully embraced the "resilient confidence" that comes from God's grace?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally look for ways God's grace is at work in your life. Journal about what you observe.
2. Identify an area where you struggle with self-doubt. Practice replacing those thoughts with truths about God's grace from Ephesians 2.
3. Choose one "good work" to focus on this week as a response to God's grace in your life.
4. Share the story of John Newton (writer of Amazing Grace) with someone who needs to hear about God's transforming power.