

# Small Group Guide: Galatians 1 - God's Amazing Grace

## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Grace Alone Saves Us** - We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Nothing we do can earn or maintain our salvation.
2. **Paul's Authority** - Paul's apostleship came directly from Jesus Christ, not from human appointment, giving his teaching divine authority.
3. **The Danger of Adding to Grace** - The Judaizers were teaching that faith in Christ plus circumcision and law-keeping were necessary for salvation. This perverts the gospel.
4. **Only One Gospel** - There is no other way to salvation except through Jesus Christ. All other paths lead to eternal separation from God.
5. **Transformation Through Grace** - When we truly understand grace, it transforms how we live—not to earn salvation, but because we've been saved.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding Grace

1. **What is grace?** How would you explain it to someone who has never heard the term before?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** Why is it important that salvation is "not of works, lest anyone should boast"? What would happen if we could earn our salvation?

3. The sermon mentioned that "you can't have peace without first experiencing God's grace." What does this mean practically in your life?

## The Galatian Problem

4. **Read Galatians 1:6-9.** Why was Paul so harsh in his language, using words like "accursed" (anathema)? What was at stake?
5. The Judaizers were teaching "Jesus plus circumcision plus law-keeping equals salvation." What are some modern-day examples of "Jesus plus \_\_\_\_\_" teachings that add to the gospel?
6. **Why is adding anything to grace so dangerous?** How does it change the nature of the gospel?

## Paul's Testimony

7. **Read Galatians 1:13-16.** What does Paul's conversion story teach us about the reach of God's grace? Is anyone beyond saving?
8. Paul said in verse 10, "Do I now persuade men or God? Or do I seek to please men?" How do we balance being loving and gracious with standing firm on biblical truth?
9. **Verse 23 says people "glorified God" because of Paul's transformation.** Does your life cause others to glorify God because of the change He's made in you? Why or why not?

## Living by Grace

10. The sermon mentioned that we don't work to be saved; we work because we've been saved. **How does understanding this change your motivation for obedience and service?**
11. **Read 2 Peter 3:9.** If God desires all people to be saved, and Christ died for all, what is our responsibility toward those who don't know Him?

12. Martin Luther's life was transformed when he discovered grace through Galatians. **Has your understanding of grace been transformational, or is it just intellectual knowledge?** What's the difference?

## Personal Reflection Questions

*(Allow 2-3 minutes of quiet reflection)*

- Am I trusting in Jesus alone for my salvation, or am I subconsciously trying to earn God's favor through my performance?
- Do I live with the freedom and joy that grace provides, or am I burdened by religious obligations?
- If someone observed my life, would they see evidence of transformation by God's grace?

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9** and meditate on what it means that salvation is a gift, not something earned.
2. **Journal about your conversion story** (like Paul shared his). When did you first understand grace? How has it changed you? Share it with someone this week.
3. **Examine your heart** for any "Jesus plus" thinking. Are you trusting in church attendance, good deeds, Bible reading, or anything else alongside Christ for your standing with God? Confess and repent of any works-based thinking.
4. **Share the simple gospel** with someone this week using the framework: grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
5. **Ask yourself daily:** "Lord, what would you have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) and commit to obeying His leading.

