



GRACE

Small Group Guide: Amazing Grace - Week 1

"Blind, Lost, Dead: Our Starting Point"

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when you were physically lost (in a mall, on a road trip, etc.). How did you feel, and how did you find your way back?

Sermon Summary

This week, Pastor Dave began the "Amazing Grace" series by establishing where we all start spiritually: blind, lost, and dead (Ephesians 2:1-10). Just as we couldn't physically jump from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, we can't bridge the gap between our sinful state and God's holiness on our own. But the good news is that God never asked us to—Jesus made that impossible jump for us through His death and resurrection. Through grace, we move from blind to sight, from lost to found, and from dead to alive.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Our Condition (15 minutes)

1. **The Three Words:** Dave described our spiritual state apart from Christ as "blind, lost, and dead." Which of these three words resonates most with your pre-Christian experience? Why?
2. **Beyond "Bad" to "Dead":** How does understanding that we're "dead" in sin (not just "bad" or "mistaken") change your perspective on salvation? Why is this distinction important?
3. **Read Ephesians 2:1-3 together.** Paul says "all of us" were in this condition. Why do you think it's hard for people (especially religious people) to accept that they were spiritually dead?

Understanding God's Grace (15 minutes)

4. **The Impossible Jump:** How does the Tulsa-to-Oklahoma-City jump illustration help you understand the impossibility of earning salvation? What are some ways people today try to "jump" on their own?
5. **Read Ephesians 2:4-9 together.** Paul repeats "by grace you have been saved" twice in this passage. Why do you think he emphasizes this so strongly?



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6. **Gift vs. Reward:** Dave emphasized that salvation is a gift, not something we earn. How does this truth affect:
- The way you view your relationship with God?
 - The way you view other Christians who struggle with sin?
 - The way you share the gospel with non-believers?

Living in Grace

7. **Sight, Found, Alive:** Which of these three transformations (sight, found, alive) do you need to be reminded of most often in your daily life? Why?
8. **The Security Question:** Dave said, "When Jesus saves you, He saves you completely" and that we can't "jump back" to being dead, lost, and blind. How does this truth provide security? Why might some people struggle to accept this?
9. **Celebration:** Dave challenged us to celebrate salvation daily. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you actively celebrate God's grace in your life? What keeps you from celebrating more?

Key Takeaways

✓ **We cannot save ourselves.** Apart from Christ, we are spiritually blind, lost, and dead—unable to do anything to bridge the gap between us and God.

✓ **Grace is a gift, not a reward.** Salvation is 100% God's work through Jesus, not based on our behavior, knowledge, or goodness.

✓ **Salvation is secure.** Once we receive Christ, we cannot "jump back" to being lost. We may damage fellowship, but we cannot break the relationship.

✓ **Celebration should be constant.** We should wake up every day grateful that we can see, that we're found, and that we're alive in Christ.

✓ **The invitation is for everyone.** There are no exceptions or exclusions from God's grace—it's available to all who believe.



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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose **one** of the following to practice this week:

1. **Daily Gratitude:** Each morning this week, before checking your phone or getting out of bed, thank God for three things:
 - That you can see (spiritually)
 - That you are found
 - That you are alive in Christ
2. **Share Your Story:** Identify one person this week who needs to hear about God's grace. Share your testimony of moving from "blind, lost, and dead" to "sight, found, and alive."
3. **Celebrate Someone Else:** Think of someone in your life who has received Christ (recently or in the past). Send them a text, call, or note celebrating their salvation and thanking God for their story.
4. **Memorize Scripture:** Commit Ephesians 2:8-9 to memory this week:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Personal Reflection Questions

Take 5-10 minutes for silent reflection:

- **If you're a Christian:** Can you identify a specific time when you called on the name of the Lord and received His grace? If not, what's holding you back from that certainty?
 - **Confidence Check:** On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you in your salvation? If it's not a 10, what doubts or questions do you have? (Consider talking with your group leader or pastor about these.)
 - **Fellowship vs. Relationship:** Are there areas where you've stepped out of fellowship with God (even though your relationship remains secure)? What steps do you need to take to restore that fellowship?
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Looking Ahead

Next Week: Continue the "Amazing Grace" series. Come prepared to dig deeper into what grace means for our daily lives as believers.

Action Item: Before next week's meeting, read through the entire book of Ephesians (it only takes about 30 minutes). Pay special attention to how Paul describes grace throughout the letter.

Additional Resources

- **For Further Study:** Read Romans 5:1-11 and Romans 8:31-39 for more on the security and certainty of salvation
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- **Baptism:** If you've never been baptized or have questions about baptism, talk with a pastor or group leader

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