

Sermon Application

LIVE IT OUT

1. Practice Daily Worship

—First thing after you wake, kneel beside your bed and worship Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

—Quote memorized scripture(s) (Eph. 1:3, Psalm 103:1, Isaiah 6:3)

2. Rest in Your Standing.

You have been saved by grace; not your own efforts. Rest in what God has done for you!

3. Respond in Gratitude.

We are not saved by doing good, but we are saved *for* it. How can you display the kindness and grace of God this week to a hurting world and be a part of the mission Jesus saved you for?

(scroll for discussion guide!)

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Ephesians

Main Idea: In the book of Ephesians, we learn how the Gospel creates a new multi-ethnic, covenant family of God and affects how we live every day as a new humanity unified in love. Energized by the Holy Spirit, believers can stand tall against the spiritual evil that threatens our unity as a Church family and maturity as followers of Jesus.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Saved by Grace, Living for Works

Main Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

Supporting Text(s): N/A

Message Outline:

Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-10 that our salvation is entirely a gracious gift from God, received through faith and not by our own efforts, so that no one can boast. Yet having received this gift, we are described as God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing the good works that He prepared beforehand. Thus the Christian life is marked both by gratitude (we don't earn God's favor) and by obedience (we live out

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the purpose for which we were saved). In short: we are saved by grace, for works.

We are not saved by works (v. 8-9)

- Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 2, that we are saved by GRACE alone, “not by works so no one can boast.”
- Paul believed true “grace” was incongruous—meaning the recipient didn’t deserve it. There was nothing that qualified the recipient of the gift in the eyes of the giver!
 - o We see this all over scripture, starting with Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, David, and even Jesus.

We are saved for works (v. 10)

- While grace is incongruous, it is also reciprocal—meaning that the gift established an on-going relationship!
- This doesn’t nullify the unmerited gift, but it does help us know what it’s for!
- Paul says in Ephesian 2:10, that *we* (collectively, not just individually) are God’s workmanship, created to do the good works he has set apart for *us*.
- We do not have to do good works to earn our salvation or to keep our salvation or to make God like us, but when we accept the free gift of grace, we are set on a trajectory to do good works as an act of worship and gratitude.

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Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. This passage is one that has led to many debates throughout history. What was your understanding of “grace” and “works” prior to this message?
2. Discuss the idea of grace that being incongruous—unmerited—AND reciprocal—a gift that establishes an ongoing relationship.
3. How does this understanding of “grace” challenge our cultural assumptions?
4. What are your thoughts on being saved *for* works? How would that idea inform your daily life as a follower of Jesus?

General questions:

5. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
6. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
7. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
8. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?