

# Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10

Leader Discussion guide

## Illustrations Used:

- Dunkirk – British army backed up against the sea
- Dry bones from Ezekiel 37:1-10
- Lazarus made alive
- The Bible describes being made alive as a heart transplant (Ez. 36:26) and as being born again (John 1:12-13; 3:3)
- The apostle Paul could have been proud
- Trophy Room

## Comprehension and Application Questions:

1. Read the passage and have someone summarize verses 1-3 and have another person summarize verses 4-10
2. APP: When you think about people (unsaved friends, kids, family members) do you think of them as, 1.) Well, 2.) Sick, 3.) Dead spiritually?
  - a. What is true about the spiritual reality of those who are not saved?
  - b. Where do we see this truth in the text?
3. What do spiritually dead people follow? (answer world, Satan, their flesh)
  - a. What does it mean that people follow these things?
4. How does Ezekiel 37:1-3 point to our reality before Jesus?
  - a. How does Ezekiel 37:4-10 demonstrate how God can give life?
5. What is our need for grace? Share from the scriptures and life.
6. Where does grace come from?
7. How do we know from this passage that our efforts/work are not effective in salvation?
  - a. What happens when we believe that our effort or work are effective in earning or keeping God's love?
  - b. APP: Have you ever believed that your efforts or work were needed to gain salvation or to keep God happy with you?
8. The word "walk" is used in verse 2 and verse 10. How does God re-create us to walk and to work?
9. Read the introduction on the outline aloud. How does understanding grace give humility, increase gratefulness to God, give an urgency to share the gospel, bring eagerness to do good works, and make you a worshiper?
  - a. APP: Which of these do you desire to grow in the most? 1.) Humility. 2.) Gratefulness. 3.) Urgency for evangelism. 4.) Eagerness to do good works. 5.) Worshiper.
  - b. Based on Eph. 2:1-10 how do you grow in each of these? How does grace propel this growth?
10. What is God calling you to apply?

## Extended Outline:

**Introduction:** God has something that if you experience it, and understood it rightly, it will give you more humility, increase your gratefulness to God, give you an urgency to share the gospel, eager to do good works, make you a worshiper of God. GRACE.

**Salvation happens because of God's grace alone. It is a result of God's sovereign and loving initiative and not a result of our initiation, or merit, or achievement.**

### 1. Our need for grace:

- a. **Illus:** Dunkirk. Rescued. But the movie opens by showing the British army backed up against the sea. Hopeless. Helpless.
- b. **V1 – our spiritual condition.**
  - i. In the assessment of humanity there are 3 options: people are (1) well (2) sick (3) dead.
    1. **Illus:** Main idea in Middle Ages was “sick.” “God gives his grace to those who do what they can.”
    2. **Illus:** “Moreover, I conceive of free will in this context as a power of the human will by which a man may apply himself to those things that lead to eternal salvation, or turn away from the same.”
  - ii. **App:** The Bible says, you were dead. Sin results in us being spiritually unable and unwilling to follow, trust in, or please God. **Romans 8:6-8** – cannot submit to God.
  - iii. We are Unable. Unwilling. Blind. Deaf.
- c. **V2 – our walk.**
  - i. We “followed,” meaning we were controlled and enslaved by:
    1. The course of this world.
    2. Prince of the power of the air: – Satan.
    3. V3 – “lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body (sinful nature).” – our nature cooperates.
- d. **V3 – our status before God**
  - i. “children of wrath.” –
    1. Wrath is not God flying off the handle. It is His settled opposition to sin.
  - ii. “By nature”: Our sinful nature leads to our sinful actions.
- e. **Illus:** Our situation. See Ezekiel 37:1-3.

### 2. The nature of grace:

- a. **V4 - Motivated by God's mercy and love.**
  - i. God's grace does not respond to us doing our best.
  - ii. “Being rich in mercy”
  - iii. “Because of the great love with which he loved us.”
  - iv. **App:** If you want to know why God saved you this is the answer.
- b. **Powerfully effective.**
  - i. V5 – Grace changes our spiritual condition.
    1. **“Made us alive together with Christ.”**
      - a. When?: “Even when we were dead in our trespasses.”
    2. This is resurrection language. Made alive, raised us up.
      - a. **Illus:** Think of Lazarus.
      - b. **App:** If you have been saved, this is how it happened.
      - c. **Illus:** Bible describes it as a heart transplant (Ez 36:26); as being born again (John 1:12-13; 3:3)
  - ii. **V6 – Grace changes our status before God.**
    1. V6 – Then he raises us up with Christ.

2. **App:** He is in the place of the Son. From children of wrath to children of God!  
By grace alone.
  - iii. **V10** - Changes our walk.
    1. God re-creates us, for good works that we walk in.
  - c. **Completely unmerited and unearned.**
    - i. V5 - **He** makes us alive. V6 - **He** raises us up. V10 - **He** re-creates us
      1. Grace = God's unmerited and unearned favor.
    - ii. V5 – By grace you have been saved (happened while you were dead)
    - iii. V8 – By grace you have been saved.
      1. “Through faith.” We must believe.
      2. But not God's grace, plus my faith. Like God does 90% and I do 10%? No, God's grace through faith.
    - iv. V8 – “This is not your own doing. It is the gift of God.”
      1. What is “this?” Salvation, including our faith.
        - a. Remember, we were spiritually dead, and we must believe to be saved. Where does the faith come from? It is a gift of God's grace. Not our own doing.
      2. Phil 1:29 – “granted to you ... you should believe in Him.”
      3. When God makes us alive, our first act of life is faith.
    - v. V9 – not a result of works.
3. **The result of grace.**
    - a. **V1-3; 8 - Humility.**
      - i. V8 - So that no one can boast.
      - ii. **Illus:** The Apostle Paul could have been proud. But he remembered what God had saved him from.
      - iii. **App:** You may not have Paul's background. **V1-3 is our story.**
    - b. **Gratefulness and worship.**
      - i. Why did God save us this way? Why does he want us to know it?
        1. Wouldn't it just be ok for me to think that I added my 10%?
      - ii. V7 – “so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
        1. He wants us to see the riches of His kindness toward us.
        2. The point is not so we can argue. But so that we will be grateful and worship Him for His grace.
      - iii. **Illus:** Trophy room. Show the skill you have, or used to have.
        1. **App:** Christians are trophies of grace. Not of smarts, or faith.
        2. Forever we will be formerly dead, sinful, objects of wrath, who highlight and remind us of the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
    - c. **V3-4 – Evangelistic urgency and expectancy.**
      - i. V3 - Urgency – this is the condition of all people.
      - ii. V4 - Expectancy – v4 – God's grace is powerful.
        1. **Illus:** Ezekiel 37:4-10 – Valley of Dry Bones.
        2. **App:** God doesn't call us to save people. We are to speak His word, His gospel. As we do, God continues to give new life. He saves people by grace, through faith in Christ.