

# “Saving Grace”

## Immeasurably More #2 • Ephesians 2

### INTRODUCTION

How often do we take the time to reflect on the immeasurable grace God has extended to us? Apart from God’s grace we would be lost and without hope. But when we were dead in our sins, God’s love reached down and saved us. We see in this study that it was through God’s love and grace that He reached out to us even when we were dead in our sins, to create one body of believers, unified through Christ’s sacrifice.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Have you ever been involved in a rescue party?

### Study Questions (45 MIN)

#### **Q1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10**

If ever we thought our salvation was somehow a result of our own efforts, Ephesians 2:8-10 should set the record straight. Where does grace<sup>1</sup> come from? How do these three verses make it clear that we do not earn salvation?

<sup>1</sup> *charis-good will, loving-kindness, favour*

#### **We are no longer Dead but Alive.**

#### **Q2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 10:4; Ephesians 2:11-16**

What condition did God find us in according to Eph 2:1? The Jews of Ephesus were struggling to attain righteousness by keeping the law. How does Romans 10:4 release us from that impossible task? Before coming to faith, did you believe that you could earn your salvation by living a virtuous life? If so, what was it that changed your understanding of salvation?

The Gentiles (non-Jews) generally were not aware of the commandments of God. What did Christ accomplish that made it possible for both Jews (attempting to follow the law) and Gentiles (who were unaware of the law) to attain righteousness and unity? (Eph 2:15)

#### **Because of His Abundant Love**

#### **Q3. Read Ephesians 2:4-7; Exodus 34:6-7a**

If God did not save us because of what we did, why did He save us? (Eph 2:4) Consider the attributes God proclaimed about Himself as He passed in front of Moses in Exodus 34:6-7a. How does recognizing God’s nature help you to understand what motivated Him to save you, even when you didn’t deserve it? What are some of the times you have experienced the outpouring of God’s abundant love?

#### **We are One in Christ.**

#### **Q4. Read Ephesians 2:14-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5; John 17:20-23**

A barrier of hostility existed between the Jews and Gentiles. This passage tells us that Jesus is peace. Why do you think it is significant that he didn’t “negotiate” a peace, or “give” them peace, but rather is himself the embodiment of peace? How do we acquire the peace of Jesus? In verses 15 and 16, how did He go about breaking down that wall of hostility? Jesus announced this good news to both those who were spiritually far off (Gentiles) and spiritually near to God (Jews) because the same solution was now available to both. What was the solution to peace with God and unity with one another?

Peter echoes Paul’s image of the body of believers built together into a dwelling place for God. (1 Peter 2:4-5) How does Peter describe our purpose of this “spiritual house” in verse 5? In John 17 Jesus prays for unity among all believers. What does the unity of believers signify to the world (John 17:21)? What are some of the sacrifices we may have to make in order to advance peace with other believers and reveal Jesus to the world?

### Wrap-Up

Without God’s saving grace through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, both the Jews and Gentiles would be without hope. But because of the immeasurable grace and love of God toward all of us, Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the law in a way we would never be able to do, and granted us access to God through faith in Him. In doing this he broke down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles, creating one unified body of believers, who form a spiritual dwelling place for God. The unity that we have within the body of Christ is itself a revelation of Jesus to the world.

### Memory Verse

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*  
*Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV*

### Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes) \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Make an extra effort to promote peace within the body of believers this week, even when you may have some significant differences of opinion.



