

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

In his classic book, *Knowing God*, author J.I. Packer reflects on the influence of God's grace in the life of believers today. He writes...

To be sure, there have always been some who found the thought of grace so overwhelmingly wonderful that they could never get over it. Grace has become the constant theme of their talk and prayers. They have written hymns about it, some of the finest—and it takes deep feeling to produce a good hymn. They have fought for it, accepting ridicule and loss of privilege if need be as the price of their stand...

But many church people are not like this. They may pay lip service to the idea of grace, but there they stop. Their conception of grace is not so much debased as nonexistent. The thought means nothing to them; it does not touch their experience at all. Talk to them about the church's heating, or last year's accounts, and they are with you at once; but speak to them about the realities to which the word grace points, and their attitude is one of deferential blankness. They do not accuse you of talking nonsense; they do not doubt that your words have meaning; but they feel that, whatever it is that you are talking about, it is beyond them, and the longer they have lived without it the surer they are that at their stage of life they do not really need it.

Are you overwhelmed by God's grace or is grace a concept still being grasped? Today we'll explore how to grow in our understanding of God's grace as we look at one of the essential and most beloved Scriptural passages on grace, Ephesians 2:1-10.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.
- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does Ephesians 2:1-10 teach us about God?
- Knowing what Ephesians 2:1-10 teaches us about God, what does the passage teach us about humanity?



- Theologian J.I. Packer points out that the New Testament word for grace (*charis*) has a wholly Christian usage. Grace (*charis*) expresses “a notion of spontaneous, self-determined kindness which was previously quite unknown to Greco-Roman ethics and theology.” Similarly, in our 21st Century North American context “grace” is a foreign concept. How would you describe God’s grace to someone who is far from God? What are some misunderstandings of grace that exist today? Identify passages in Ephesians that might help you communicate the Biblical concept of grace.
- God’s grace isn’t simply a concept that those far from Christ need to embrace. Every growing disciple needs to daily confront the grace of Christ. Discuss how growing disciples mature through the regular proclamation of the Gospel of grace. How does God’s grace call disciples to faithfulness? How does God’s grace mobilize disciples to active service? Identify passages in Ephesians where the Gospel of grace results in transformed lives.
- Discuss the cause and effect relationship of grace and salvation. Use Scriptural passages to support your conclusions.
- Christianity has always been a singing and celebratory faith. Many believers learn doctrines and tenets of their faith through the songs they sing. Without question, “Amazing Grace” by John Newton presents one of the most robust and well-loved reflections on God’s grace. Identify other songs of faith that strengthen your understanding of God’s grace. If possible, curate an online playlist that you can share with your Life Group.

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to “grow up” in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has Jesus proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

How is God calling you to respond to His grace today? Voice a personal prayer that articulates that response.

