

Open your Heart and Mind

- Have a couple people share what their experience of God's grace has been. Especially those who have come out of a different faith background.

Finding God in His Word

Ephesians 2:1-10

- In vs. 1-3, Paul paints a very poor picture of mankind prior to salvation. What is Paul's reasoning for doing this? Why doesn't he start off talking about God's grace rather than talking about how bad we were?

- When Paul says we were "dead in our sins" and "children of wrath," what images come to mind? That's strong language, do you believe this about yourself, your friends, family? Why or why not? Why is it important to have an accurate view of mankind?

- Vs. 4, "But God," When you see those words in Scripture, what do those words bring to your mind? What does God's mercy mean to you? Do you think there is a difference between mercy and grace?

- Vs. 4-7 We see in this section, that it is God who has moved on man's behalf. If God does the work of salvation on man's behalf, do you think that God's work is sufficient? Does man need to do anything to help God with their salvation?

- Vs. 8-9 Christianity is the only religion that does not require works for salvation. When you understand the Catholic church's understanding of grace vs. the evangelical understanding of grace, what is your reaction? Are they the same?

- Given the difference between the Catholic church's teaching on grace and their selling of indulgences, does this give you a better understanding of the reformation? What stands out to you?

- Vs. 10 If good works cannot get you into heaven, what is Paul talking about in vs. 10? What are the works that Paul, are they works that lead to salvation?

- Why is understanding grace alone so important to the Gospel message?

Live the Christ Life

Are you putting your trust in anything other than the shed blood of Christ for your salvation? How have these truths deepened your love for Jesus?