

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

**Ephesians** – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

## Ephesians 2:1-10

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

### 3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Our Past Condition**
- **A Purposeful Salvation**
- **Praise Owed to God**

#### I. Our Past Condition

- **Read Eph. 2:1-3**
- What does Paul mean when he says his readers were dead?
  - **Skevington Wood** - Spiritual death means that the most vital part of man’s personality – (“the spirit” / “the Inner Man”) – **is dead** to the most important factor in life, God.”
- How does Paul graphically describe those who are dead in sin? How does this compare to your experience before you became a Christian?
  - To help answer this question, **read Eph. 4:17-19 & Romans 8:10**
- There are a lot of unbelievers who live moral lives. How can a person live to satisfy the cravings of the flesh and still live a basically moral life?

- How do you respond to the idea that basically decent people are disobedient and influenced by the devil?
- Are you more alive than the unbelievers you know? If so, how?
- How does Ephesians 2:1-3 give us a heart for the lost?
- How do politics get in the way of the church loving those that are spiritually dead? Have you seen Christians put their political identity before their identity in Christ? Are you tempted to do this? Why is this dangerous?
- What type of ideas and morals should you expect from someone that is spiritually dead? What is unbelievers' only hope and how do we play a role in that?

## II. A Purposeful Salvation

- One of the most debated religious questions is, "How does a person make it to heaven?" How would you answer that question?
- If you had to explain "grace" to a child, what would you say?
- Notice how the word "grace" is used in this short passage. What other words does Paul use in the passage to describe God's actions toward the lost?
- How does God make dead people come alive?
- Paul says you are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm. What does he mean? How can that be true of you while you still live on earth?
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** is the Bible's most concise statement of "salvation by grace through faith." This is the essence of the Christian gospel, and yet it has been the source of heated dispute. To what does the word, "*this*" in verse 8 refer? What does it mean?
  - **Leader's Cheat:** feel free to skip this question if you don't feel comfortable talking about it. Below is a quote from James White to help you answer this question.
    - **James White** – "The word "*this*" is a neuter gender in the Greek language, "*faith*" is a feminine term, and "*have been saved*" is a masculine participle. There is nothing in the first phrase that matches "*this*" in gender. Instead, the neuter demonstrative pronoun "*this*" refers to the entirety of the preceding clause."
- How are grace and faith related in our salvation?

- **Read Romans 5:6-11.** What themes in this passage from Romans echo the message of Ephesians 2:1-10?
- What is significant about the truth that God saved us at our worst, “while we were still sinners,” or, in the words of Chapter 2, when we were “dead in trespasses?”
- How does John 6:44 contribute to your understanding of this passage?
- Discuss the following quote by Charles Spurgeon.
  - Faith occupies the position of a channel or conduit pipe. Grace is the fountain and the stream. Faith is the aqueduct along which the mercy flood flows down to refresh the thirsty sons of men... I remind you again that faith is only the channel or the aqueduct, and not the fountainhead. We must not look to it so much that we exalt it above the divine source of all blessing which lies in the grace of God. – **Charles Spurgeon.**
- What new insights have you gained through this study into the marvelous grace of God?
- What can you do this week to “grow in the grace...of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?” (2 Peter 3:18)

### **III. Praise Owed to God**

- What is the relationship between good works and salvation?
- What is the significance of the word *workmanship* in verse 10? How would thinking of yourself as God’s workmanship affect the way you conduct life?
- What good work is God giving you to do, with His power, this week?
- How can Ephesians 2:1-10 help unite us (COBC) as a body and promote patience and love for each other?

#### **A Prayer from Augustus Toplady**

O Lord, we desire to adore your name, which is excellent in all the earth, and whose glory is above the heavens. You are the maker and disposer of all things; and for your sovereign pleasure it is that they still exist, and were at first created. Your hands have made and fashioned us; and all that we enjoy comes from you. As we are the workmanship of your power, O make us likewise your spiritual workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus, unto holiness and true righteousness. Give proof that you have formed us for yourself, by causing us to show forth your praise, and by making us live to glory, as we do every day live upon your bounty.