

Sermon Discussion Guide

Feb. 15 & 16, 2025 "What's So Amazing About Grace?" Ephesians 2:4-9

Life's biggest questions deserve thoughtful answers. In this sermon series, we'll explore foundational truths about faith, God, and our place in his creation. Together, we'll seek biblical wisdom to navigate life's complexities, deepen our understanding, and strengthen our trust in the God who holds all answers.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on **hopeonline.tv**. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read Exodus 34:6-7 - "A New Copy of the Covenant"

- What do these verses reveal about God's character, particularly his grace? How does knowing grace is an essential part of God's nature impact how you relate to him? How do you tend to view God—more as loving or just?
- Moses asked for God's favor despite Israel's failures. Why do people struggle to ask for grace? How does this passage challenge the idea that God's grace has limits?
- When have you experienced unearned kindness from God or someone else?

Read John 1:14-17 - "Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word"

- What does it mean that Jesus came "full of grace and truth"? Why do we sometimes separate these two qualities rather than embrace both? How has Jesus shown both grace and truth in your life?
- Jesus replaces the old covenant law with grace. How does this shift affect how we live as followers of Jesus? Why do people still try to earn God's favor even though salvation is a free gift? How does this passage challenge a performance-based faith?
- The grace of Jesus transforms lives. How does receiving grace lead to extending grace? Who in your life needs to experience the grace of God through your actions? How can you share the message of grace with those who don't yet understand it?

Read Ephesians 2:4-9 - "Made Alive With Christ"

- What does it mean to be "saved by grace through faith" rather than works? How does this free us from performance-driven faith?
- Paul describes us as spiritually dead before receiving God's grace. What does that tell us about our need for grace?
- How does truly believing salvation is a gift change the way you live? How can you shift from knowing about grace intellectually to fully embracing it in your daily life? What steps can you take to remind yourself of grace when you feel unworthy?
- This passage emphasizes that no one can boast about earning salvation. How does grace break down pride and comparison?

Read <u>Matthew 20:1-16</u> - "Parable of the Vineyard Workers"

- The vineyard owner gave the same reward to all, regardless of when they started working. How does this challenge our view of people who come to faith late in life? How does this shape the way we welcome and encourage those who are new to faith?
- The workers who labored all day resented those who received the same reward for less effort. When have you struggled with
- jealousy or resentment over God's grace being extended to someone else?
- What steps can you take to celebrate grace in others' lives rather than compare?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- Reflect on a time when you received undeserved grace from someone. How did it impact you? How can that experience help you extend grace to others in your daily interactions?
- Identify an area of your life where you are still trying to earn God's favor. What would it look like to fully embrace grace in that area? What steps can you take to shift your mindset?
- This week, intentionally show grace to someone—especially someone who doesn't deserve it or whom you find difficult to forgive. How can this be a reflection of the grace God has given you?

