

Say Yes to God: Growing Deeper in God's Grace
Week Three
Ephesians 2:1-10

THE BIG IDEA:

The biggest idea of the Christian life and of Bidwell Presbyterian Church is that God has saved us by his grace alone. We can't earn God's love and eternal life—it is simply a gift that God has given us through Jesus Christ. But no matter how many times we hear it, it is easy to fall back into believing that we have to work for God's love. Allow this amazing passage from Paul soak deep within you as you hear about the grace of God again.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED

1. If you could give the person on your left any gift, what would you give him or her?

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Together, read Ephesians 2:1-10

2. Ask someone in your group to re-tell in his/her own words Steve's message from Sunday.
3. Paul goes to great length in the first 3 verses to describe our lives prior to receiving God's grace. What words does he use to do this? According to Paul, how did each of these affect our lives prior to accepting God's grace?
4. How does this passage change in verses 4 and 5?
5. What do we learn about God's grace from verses 4-10?
6. When Paul says that our salvation is not from ourselves (vv.8-9), is he saying that we play no role in our salvation? Explain.
7. Does verse 10 contradict verses 8-9? Explain.
8. Paul seems to be saying that *it is God's grace that compels* us to do good works. What good works do you feel that God has prepared for you to do?

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LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

9. Paul makes it pretty darn clear that there is nothing we can do to earn God’s favor and love--it is simply a gift we are offered to receive. But we humans tend to slip back into thinking we can earn God’s love. When do you most often do this? In what area of your life?

THE EXTRA MILE

10. Take a few moments to consider how God’s grace is compelling you to “do good works” in the coming week. Make a specific plan to carry out this good work. Come back to your Real Life Group next week prepared to share this experience with your group. *(RLG Leaders: be prepared to ask next week!)*

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

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