



# WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## WEEK 3: The Grace of God

### SERIES OVERVIEW

In our God Gave series we are looking at John 3:16 through the lens of the Christmas story. As we break down this famous verse in John's Gospel, may our hearts and minds be refreshed knowing God's love for us and experiencing his gift of salvation through His son Jesus.

### CONTEXT

John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:1-10 together illuminate the profound gift of Christmas: God's grace and love manifested through the birth of Jesus Christ. While John 3:16 emphasizes God's sacrificial love in giving His Son for our eternal life, Ephesians 2:1-10 underscores that it is by grace we are saved, reminding us that this gift is not earned but freely given to all who believe.

### THE BIG IDEA

We don't earn salvation; we receive it. This free gift is available to anyone who believes.

### ICE BREAKER

RE-GIFT CONFESSIONS! Share a time when you "regifted" a gift that you were given by someone either the year before or at a different party. Did you get busted? What was the response?

### SCRIPTURE

#### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

#### Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



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## GROUP DISCUSSION

**ALL TO HIM:** As we approach the 2 year mark of our ATH Discipleship Journey and reflect on all that God has done in and through us, how has your faith grown during your ATH Discipleship Journey?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

Read John 3:16. Commit this verse to memory. How does this verse connect with Ephesians 2:1-10?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 as a group. In these verses we learn that you're not a sinner b/c you sin, you sin b/c you're sinner. Read this quote and share how it speaks to our sin depravity, grace and life as a Christ follower.

*"The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead! He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection. All lost sinners are dead, and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay. The lost derelict on skid row may be more decayed outwardly than the unsaved society leader, but both are dead in sin—and one corpse cannot be more dead than another! This means that our world is one vast graveyard, filled with people who are dead while they live.—Warren Wiersbe*

Read Eph. 2:4-6. The first 2 words are very significant to the Gospel and the Christmas story- "BUT GOD..." Share a "But God" situation in your life that can only be explained by God's grace and mercy.

**Discussion continued:** According to vs 7, why did God save us through faith alone and make us alive together with Christ?

Read Eph. 2:8-10. According to these verses, in who/what do we boast in response to grace? When God lavishes his grace on you or your family, how do you tend to react? What is your attitude toward God's grace when He lavishes it on someone who you don't think deserves it?

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## PRAYER (In gender based groups)

\*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Share your love for God through praise, giving thanks and remembering that His grace is sufficient.

**Closing Prayer**(come back together as a group)  
God, we are grateful that you gave your first and best in Jesus. May our Christmas be filled with the joy and hope that only Jesus can give. Holy Spirit, show us who we need to share the story of Jesus with and go before us as we invite people to a Christmas gathering. In the hopefilled name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

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## CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

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