

## **Jan 26/25 - "Amazing Grace" – Ephesians 2:1-10** **(Leader's Guide)**

1. This passage essentially tells a 'rags to riches' story. What do you think Paul means when he says "You were dead in the trespasses and sins"? Can you identify with that personally? Explain why or why not.

*This verse may be difficult for people for a variety of reasons. It's very stark and blunt in talking about the effect of sin, which may be off-putting for some. For others, it may feel like it doesn't describe them since they grew up in the faith. Make space for a variety of responses to this.*

2. Karen mentioned the concept of 'prevenient grace' in her sermon – grace that goes before and paves the way for a person to be able to respond to God. Is this a new thought for you? Have you seen what you would call prevenient grace in action? What did that look like?

*We can see God working and "paving the way" for us in so many situations. Try to think of an example from your own life to share with the group. For example, this could be anything from a work meeting going better than expected to a restored relationship...*

3. What does it mean to be 'seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus'?

*It means that we are secure in our status in him – that nothing and no one can remove us from his presence.*

4. Verse 8 says that we have been saved by grace through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. This is good news. So why is it so hard for us to accept it?

*It's extremely difficult for us to admit that we have absolutely no way to control God's love for us, to make him love us more. It's also hard to believe that the converse is true – that we can't make him love us less, either. Think through some reasons that might be the case, and how it shows up in our lives.*

5. Being saved is a gift, not a result of works. But we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. How do you understand this?

*Nothing we can do can essentially "restore the head to the body", to use the language of Darrell Johnson – Christ needed to make us alive again in him. But once he has done that, it means that we can live the way we always were intended to – in love.*