

Icebreaker:

What is the most astonishing event you have ever witnessed?

Read: Luke 8:43-48 and Ephesians 2:1-10.

Discuss:

1. How would you define salvation? Do you ever consider how you participate in salvation for the world?
2. In the Luke story, there is a crowd around Jesus. Some are curious, but the woman boldly touches Jesus. When have you been more curious about Jesus? When have you had faith to reach out and touch him?
3. In the story of the sick woman in Luke, Jesus says her faith healed her (one translation says her faith saved her). Yet she never makes a statement of faith or prays a certain prayer. How is it that her faith heals her? When have you had a faith like this?
4. Paul describes God's grace in Ephesians 2. What has God's grace meant to you? Can you think of a time or story where God's grace has been very real to you?
5. Ephesians tells us that grace is free and because of nothing we have done. It also tells us that we were created in Jesus for "good works." Is that a paradox? If not, how do you make sense of the relationship between grace and works?
6. Jesus suffered on the cross in order to give us forgiveness. Have you experienced forgiveness as suffering? If you're comfortable, describe that situation.

As your group closes, please keep the following prayer requests in mind:

- > Prayers of healing for Wanda Baker and Mona Ruby.
- > Please pray for Neal and Libby Clements and their family.
- > Please pray for comfort for Ben Klotz and his family in the death of Ben's grandmother.

Reminders for your group:

- > It's time to host the homeless with IHN October 30-November 6. Sign up at zpc.org.
- > Make plans to attend ZPC's Fall Celebration on Sunday, October 30. It will include brunch, face painting, bounce house, costumes, and more! Donations and volunteers are needed. More information at zpc.org.

Leader's Notes:

Salvation may seem simple but can be complicated. Paul speaks much of the grace of Jesus and explains it well in the Ephesians 2 passage. Use that passage and other well-known passages and the Sunday sermon to discuss today's topic to help us find our True North through Salvation.

[Question 1] Salvation delivers us from sin. Salvation comes through Christ alone, God's grace alone, and it is our faith alone – not by works. John Stott says, "The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us." We can participate as we give God's grace to others out of our own unique abilities and gifts.

[Question 2] The sick woman wanted to be made well. She was willing to take a risk to show faith and to be healed. Ask your group when are the times they are willing to be more than curious, to be bold.

[Question 3] The woman was willing to touch Jesus even though she knew by touching him she would make him as a Jewish man unclean. She had heard Jesus could heal, and was faithful enough to reach out and boldly touch the hem of his garment.

[Question 4] Let this question linger with your group. Ask for some people to respond with a story. One description of God's grace might be "unmerited favor" or another simple understanding can be "God's Riches At Christ's Expense."

[Question 5] Read Ephesians 2:8-10 again. We are saved by grace, and called to do good works which God has already called us to do. It is a little mysterious, yet we can do both – be saved only by God's grace and fulfill our call to do works which God has for us.

[Question 6] When you forgive someone and give up something you are holding on to, you suffer a little, maybe a lot! Your forgiveness for someone else connects you to Jesus' forgiveness for you. This can especially happen within parent to child relationships, or marriage relationships, where we are called to suffer and forgive because we love the other person with abundant grace.

Prayer

Pray for one another and for the church family prayer requests.