



Group Guide

Called to Salvation

August 3, 2025

Main Passage: Romans 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 2:8-9

Theological Theme

When we deeply understand the magnitude of the gift Christ offers us in salvation, we feel compelled to share that good news with others.

Introduction

- ❓ How has God shown His amazing grace in your life?
- ❓ Would anyone like to share the story of when you were saved?

1. How We Are Saved (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Ephesians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus. These two simple verses in Ephesians share an important gospel truth. The New Living Translation makes it even simpler: “God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”

- ❓ How would you explain salvation in Jesus to someone unfamiliar with the idea?
- ❓ What important points about salvation did Paul make in these two verses?
- ❓ Application: What are your big takeaways about salvation from these two verses? Who could you share this with?

2. What’s Next? (2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

Second Corinthians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, which had been plagued by false teachers (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), who had convinced many in the church to abandon the gospel Paul proclaimed. This passage reminds us that receiving salvation is not the end of the process, but the beginning of a changed life. We are saved . . . now what?

- ❓ What does it mean to be compelled by Christ's love (v. 14)? How does that affect our lives?
- ❓ What does it mean to be a "new creation" in Christ (v. 17)?
- ❓ Application: Think about what your life looked like before you knew Jesus. How has your life changed since following Him?

3. Unashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17)

Paul said he was unashamed of the gospel. For Paul, this meant sharing the gospel no matter the consequences. As we read in 2 Corinthians, Paul felt compelled to share the gospel, and he shared with little regard to his own preferences or physical safety. (The book of Acts is riddled with accounts of the persecution Paul endured for the sake of the gospel.)

- ❓ What does it mean to be unashamed of the gospel?
- ❓ In what way is the gospel powerful in our lives and the world?
- ❓ Application: What would it look like for you specifically to live unashamed of the gospel? How do you need to take action?

Conclusion

- ❓ We read in Ephesians 2:8: "you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift." How might this gift be a difficult concept for those who have missed the mark a lot? Why is this such good news for those who know how much they need something outside of themselves for salvation?
- ❓ Why should the magnitude of God's gift of salvation and forgiveness compel us to share the gospel with others?
- ❓ How is God calling you to live unashamed for the gospel this week? How will you respond?