

# Foundations

## OPEN THE CONVERSATION

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

- Ask for each student's high and low from the week.
- Today's RBQ (Relationship Building Question): **What's the best gift you have ever been given.**

## INTRODUCTION

You've probably heard the song "Amazing Grace." But did you know it was written by a guy who used to sell people into slavery? His name was John Newton, and his life was a mess. He was rude, selfish, and did a lot of terrible things. But when his ship was caught in a huge storm, Newton thought his life was over. In that moment, he remembered the faith his mom had taught him about Jesus. That storm didn't just change his ship's course—it changed his life's course. Newton became a follower of Jesus, became a pastor, and eventually wrote "Amazing Grace" to describe how God's love saved even someone like him. Today, we're going to talk about how God's gift of salvation is entirely free, how it changes us from the inside out, and how we should live in a way that shows others the good news of Jesus.

**Can you think of a time when you received a gift you didn't deserve? How did that feel?**

## READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9

1. What does it mean that we are saved by grace, not by something we do?
2. Why do you think people often believe they have to "earn" God's love?
3. How does knowing you can't earn God's love change the way you think about Him?

Paul tells us that salvation isn't like getting a trophy for doing good things. It's a gift—a free one. Grace means getting something you didn't earn. It's like being handed a first-place medal even though you didn't run the race. God loves us so much that He gives us this gift of salvation through Jesus, even though we don't deserve it.

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

1. Paul says Christ's love "compels" him. What does it mean to be motivated by God's love?
2. What do you think it means to be a "new creation" in Jesus?
3. How has following Jesus changed you?

When you follow Jesus, it's like getting a brand new start. The old you is gone, and you get a fresh start because of what Jesus did for you. Paul says we should live differently because of this. One big way is through the "ministry of reconciliation"—that's a fancy way of saying helping others fix their broken relationship with God.

## **READ ROMANS 1:16-17**

1. Paul says he's "not ashamed of the gospel." What would it look like for you to be unashamed of your faith at school, with friends, or online?
2. Why do you think Paul describes the gospel as "the power of God"?
3. What's stopping you from sharing Jesus with someone? How can we pray about that together?

Being unashamed doesn't mean being loud or annoying—it means being real about your faith, even if it feels awkward or unpopular. Paul was so changed by Jesus that he couldn't help but share the good news. The word "power" in this verse is like the word "dynamite"—God's good news is explosive. It has the power to completely change lives.

## **More Questions for Discussion:**

1. Why is it hard sometimes to believe that God really loves us no matter what we've done?
2. Why should understanding God's gift of salvation make us want to tell others?
3. How can you build relationships this week with people who need to know about Jesus?

## **WRAP UP**

Let's put today's lesson into action: How can you live out what we've talked about today? Ask for any prayer requests and pray for one another.

## **THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE**

Write down 1-3 names of people you know who don't have a relationship with Jesus. This week, pray for them every day. Ask God to give you an opportunity to share His love with them.