



## SALVATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

**KEY SCRIPTURE** | Ephesians 2:1–9

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

David committed adultery and then murder to cover it up. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Paul killed Christians before he became one. But the Bible calls David a man after God's own heart. Peter was "the rock" Jesus built the church on. Paul was a key figure in the early church and wrote much of the New Testament. It's clear our salvation doesn't hinge on whether or not there's sin in our lives—or which category that sin falls into.

Even so, salvation isn't a given. It's not enough to be a good person. You can't earn salvation by doing the right things and avoiding the wrong ones, and good karma can't get you to heaven. It's a gift, not a reward.

So how do you get eternal life? Like David, Peter, and Paul, live a life of active faith, knowing God already met the requirements for salvation on your behalf and there's nothing you can do to earn His favor. Surrender to God, accept His free gift of salvation, and allow Him to redeem you from the consequences of sin.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How do you think most people answer the question "Why should God let you into heaven?" What do you think God would say about those answers?
3. How have you bought into the idea that you can earn or contribute to your salvation?
4. In what ways do you try to do things on your own without God? Have you ever fallen into the trap of ranking sins from bad to worst? Why doesn't it make sense to do that?
5. Read Ephesians 2:8. We often hear the phrase "saved by grace through faith" in the church, but do you know what it means? How would you explain it to someone who doesn't understand the concept?
6. Share some ways you're experiencing God's grace right now.

## CHALLENGE

If you haven't already, accept God's free gift of salvation. If you've already done that, take some time to reflect on what it means to you. Then live boldly and look for ways to share that free gift with others.

