



Title: Trusting In God

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Salvation is an _____ of grace,
not a _____.

Salvation comes when we _____ Jesus,
not our _____.

Salvation silences our _____ and
shows us how truly _____ God is.

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

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Optional: Each week during this seven-week series, open your meeting by having one or two group members share their testimony of how God saved them.

Open: What are one or two of the best gifts you've ever received?

Read & Discuss: Ephesians 2:8-10

1. How would you paraphrase these verses to someone you were discipling?
2. Verse 8 says we have "been saved through faith." How would you define "faith"? What are the essential truths that we must believe in order to be saved by faith?
3. Why do we often want to earn what we receive rather than just be given something that was actually earned by someone else? How might this potentially good desire create conflict with the idea of being saved by grace?
4. Verse 8 says that salvation is a "gift." How would you describe the proper way to receive such a gift? What might be some improper ways to receive a gift? Does the way in which we receive the gift add any merit to us before God? If not, why does our response matter?
5. According to verse 9, since salvation is a gift, we cannot "boast" or take credit regarding our salvation. How should this affect our attitude toward other believers? How should it affect our attitude toward *unbelievers*?
6. Based on verse 10, what does God intend for us to do as a result of being saved? How would you explain what it means to be someone's "workmanship" (v. 10)?
7. To someone you were discipling, how would you describe the "good works" that "God prepared beforehand" for us to do? What are some "good works" that you "should walk" in that you might be avoiding?

Apply: If saving faith is a gift of God and not a result of works, how can we be most effective in sharing Gospel hope with others?

Pray: Ask God to give you opportunities to share the truth of this passage with someone soon.

This Week: So you're prepared to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 2 (pages 7-10) of *Just for Starters*. Then memorize Ephesians 2:8-9.

Ephesians 2:8-10

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