

## REFLECT

Each of us who believe in Jesus have experienced God's grace in some way, but we are prone to forget. This is ungrateful and dangerous. How have you been old, lost, enslaved, hopeless, or dying? Bring that to mind. How were you made new, found, freed, given hope, or returned to life by God's grace?

## RESPOND

Write your own "cardboard testimony"<sup>1</sup> based on your reflection above. Share your testimonies in the group. With whom is God leading you to share His grace through your testimony?

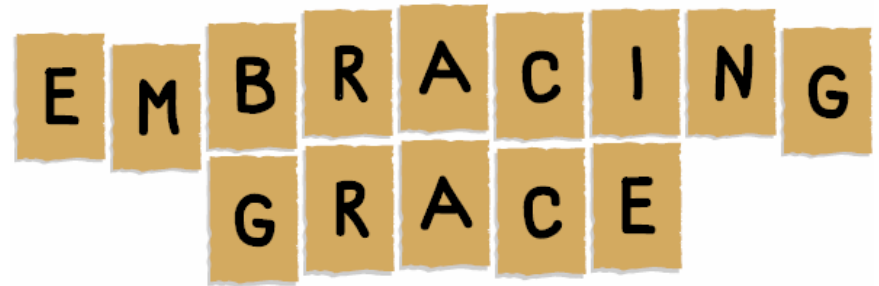
Close by saying "The Grace"<sup>2</sup> together: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

<sup>1</sup> A cardboard testimony is a short before/after story, with a sentence that tells how you struggled in some area and a sentence that describes how God graciously acted to help you.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:13

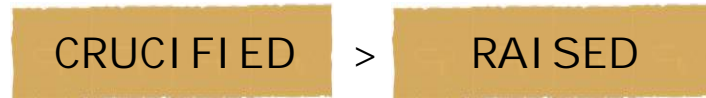


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Luke 24:5-8

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered His words.



Grace means there's always a flipside.

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2 Corinthians 5:15-21

And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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LOST > FOUND

Luke 15:24

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.

ENSLAVED > FREED

Romans 8:9-11

You, however, are not controlled by the sinful nature but are in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ... And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.

HOPELESS > HOPEFUL

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

DYING > LIVING

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

# God's Grace Raises Us with Jesus

## LIFE GROUP STUDY

### RELATE

Why is the song "Amazing Grace" so popular, even outside church?

Share a time you gave or received a "random act of kindness?"  
What happened?

What principle, insight, or quote from the sermon or the cardboard testimonies was most meaningful to you?

### READ

Ephesians 1:4-8 and 2:1-10

In verses 4-8 Paul gushes about God's grace. Which words (actions and adjectives) describe the "what" and "how" of God's grace (i.e., adopted, pleasure)?

Does your view of God match this description? How is it different?

God lavished His grace on us with "wisdom and understanding" (1:8). How is grace a risk for God? For us?

What is required to appreciate grace? How does Paul address that issue in 2:1-3? Is it easy or difficult to accept that you were born with a sinful nature, and deserved God's wrath?

Write the words that describe our status before and after we receive God's grace.

Before:

After:

Why is it important to understand that even our ability to believe in Jesus is a gift from God? How did He give that gift to you?