Believe Week 3

Salvation

**Key Verse**

Ephesians 2:8-9

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

**Key Idea**

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Group Discussion**

Four Key Statements About a Personal God

* I believe I will inherit eternal life because of what Jesus has done for me
* I believe nothing I do or have done can earn my salvation
* I believe salvation comes only through Jesus
* I believe people are saved because of what Jesus did, not because of what they do

Which of these four key statements are easy for you to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

How would you define the word “grace?” What is the opposite of grace?

What specifically would it look like for us to offer grace to people who don’t deserve it, as God did for us?

**Romans 5:12-21**

***12****Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—*

***13****To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law.****14****Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.*

***15****But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!****16****Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.****17****For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

***18****Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.****19****For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

Paul is drawing a connection between Adam and Jesus in this passage. What are some of the ways that they are similar?

How did Jesus’ choices overturn the effect of Adam and Eve’s sin in our lives?

What do the Scriptures tell you about the character of God and his feelings toward you and all of humanity?