

Sermon Discussion Guide
“The Old Has Gone” Series
Part 3: Saved (Various Scriptures)

Icebreaker Questions: (*Option #1*): What is one item that costs less than \$50 that has dramatically improved your life? (*Option #2*): Are you someone who likes plans or spontaneity? What is one way you see this playing out in your life?

Prayer: Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

Read: Romans 5:6–11; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8–9

Big Idea: We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. Jesus did not come to make bad people a little better; he came to save helpless sinners and bring them into joyful, eternal fellowship with him.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read Romans 5:6–11.
 - a. Which word, phrase, or concept is most encouraging to you about this passage? Why?
 - b. According to these verses, what are we saved *by*? What are we saved *from*? What are we saved *for* (i.e., what is the outcome of our salvation)? Which of these aspects of God’s salvation do you want to focus more on? Why?
 - c. How do you feel when you hear or read about the concept of God’s wrath? How have you processed this concept throughout your life? What has been helpful to you? Is it bad if this is a hard concept for us? What does God’s righteous wrath against sin and evil reflect about his character?
 - d. What does this passage teach us about the *timing* of Christ’s death for us? How can this timing give us hope? How does knowing God loved you at your worst change the way you think about yourself today?
3. Read Acts 4:12. What are some common modern “saviors” that people put their trust in? What are some false saviors you have been tempted to put your trust in throughout your life? How did you see/ have you seen that “salvation is found in no one else” (except Jesus)?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8–9. Why do we naturally drift toward trying to earn God’s favor? What situations tempt you to place your identity in your successes, failures, or other people’s opinions rather than in being saved by grace? If “boasting” in our good works is the unhealthy response (see v. 9), what is the healthy response to our salvation?
5. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
6. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture passage or small group discussion this next week?

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:6–11 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.