

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to transformation.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Has there been a time when you had to explain what it means to be a Christian to someone who didn't understand. What did you say? Looking back, what would you add now?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Salvation is More Than a Prayer** - The church often rushes people through salvation without helping them understand what truly happens when they accept Christ.
 2. **Justification AND Regeneration** - Being saved includes both being declared "not guilty" before God (justification) and being made into a completely new creation (regeneration).
 3. **Jesus Set a New Pattern** - When Jesus was baptized, He wasn't repenting of sin (He had none), but establishing a new pattern for humanity through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 4. **The Broken Die Illustration** - Like a damaged coin die that stamps flaws onto every coin, Adam's sin marked all humanity. Jesus became the perfect, unbreakable die that can remake us in God's image.
 5. **Freedom from Sin's Power** - We're not just forgiven sinners; we're new creations no longer enslaved to sin. We have the power to resist what once controlled us.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message (15-20 minutes)

1. The pastor mentioned meeting people who say they were "saved as a kid" but can't explain what that means. Why do you think this happens? Have you ever felt uncertain about your own salvation experience?
2. Read Luke 3:21-23 together. Why is it significant that Jesus was baptized alongside people who were repenting of sin, even though He had no sin to repent of?
3. Explain the "coin die" illustration in your own words. How does this help you understand what happened to humanity through Adam's sin?

Going Deeper (20-25 minutes)

4. The sermon stated that when we're regenerated in Christ, "sin doesn't have dominion over your thoughts and actions anymore." How does this differ from the idea that we're "just sinners saved by grace"? Why does this distinction matter?
5. The pastor said, "Your flesh may ask you for it, but your soul no longer has to obey it." What does this mean practically? Can you share an example of experiencing this tension between flesh and spirit?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to be a "new creation"? What are some evidences in your life that demonstrate you've been made new?
7. The sermon mentioned that when we sin after being saved, we feel grieved because "that's not who I am anymore." Have you experienced this? How is this different from guilt or shame?

Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)

8. Have you been baptized? If so, what did you understand baptism to mean at the time? How has your understanding deepened after this message?
 9. The pastor asked: "Have you been saved? Or have you been remade?" How would you answer this question about your own spiritual journey?
 10. What specific sin, addiction, or pattern in your life have you believed was just "part of who you are"? How does the truth of regeneration speak to that area?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Reflection Exercise

- Spend 30 minutes journaling about your salvation experience
- Write down: When did it happen? What did you understand then? What do you understand now?
- If you're uncertain about your salvation, write out a prayer surrendering your life to Christ

Option 2: Identity Declaration

- Identify one area where you've been living as "just a sinner saved by grace" rather than as a new creation
- Write out 3-5 Scripture verses that declare your new identity in Christ
- Read these aloud each morning this week

Option 3: Baptism Step

- If you've accepted Christ but never been baptized, talk to a pastor or group leader about taking this step
- If you have been baptized, reflect on what that moment meant and thank God for the work He began in you

Option 4: Share Your Story

- Prepare a 3-minute testimony of how Christ has transformed you (not just forgiven you)
 - Share it with one person this week who needs to hear about the power of regeneration
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Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Prayer Focus (10-15 minutes)

Group Prayer Time:

- Pray for anyone in the group who is uncertain about their salvation or wants to make a fresh commitment to Christ
- Pray for freedom from specific sins or addictions that group members have shared
- Thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit to remake us in Christ's image
- Pray for upcoming baptism services and for those considering baptism

Closing Prayer: Use the pastor's closing prayer or pray something similar: *"Lord, may we not be content with just a prayer and a handshake. We want You. We want to be freed from the things that break us, the things that turn us away from Your image. Make us new. We know there is so much more than just saying 'I'm saved.' Jesus, we want You. Save us now and continue to remake us in Your image. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Looking Ahead

- Encourage group members to attend church next week for part 3 of the "Saved" series
 - Remind those interested in baptism to speak with church leadership
 - Set a time for the next small group meeting
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be questioning their salvation for the first time
- Have resources available for anyone wanting to learn more about baptism
- Consider having tissues available as the Holy Spirit may bring conviction or emotional responses
- Follow up individually with anyone who expresses uncertainty about their salvation