

Group Questions

A Life Beyond Amazing

1. Discuss what an amazing life looks like according to the world.
 - a. How would you define an amazing life?
 - b. The biblical description of a life beyond amazing is found in Galatians 5:22–23. How does the life described in those verses differ from the world's view of an amazing life?
 - c. Which of the character traits listed in Galatians 5:22–23 are most needed in our world today? Which are the most difficult to cultivate?
2. Talk about the differences between being saved from the *penalty* of sin, the *power* of sin, and the *presence* of sin.
 - a. How should this mindset of salvation affect how we live our lives?
 - b. What is the danger in getting stuck in the past tense of salvation?
3. Read Philippians 2:12–13.
 - a. How is working *out* your salvation different from working *for* your salvation?
 - b. What is God's role in salvation? What is ours?
4. Developing our character is the bridge between our past and future salvation experiences. It's an amazing life.
 - a. What is character?
 - b. How is character developed?

5. In this lesson, grace is defined as that "which meets us where we are but is not content to let us remain where we are."

- a. How does this definition encourage you?
- b. Is it more difficult for you to meet people where they are or challenge them to an amazing life?
- c. Discuss how your relationships would look if you both accepted others as they are and encouraged them toward a life beyond amazing.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Paul tells Timothy to "exercise [himself] toward godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7), he uses the Greek verb *gumnazo*—to exercise, to train, to discipline. It is easy to see the root of our English word *gymnasium* in the Greek word. The word *gumnazo* literally meant "to exercise naked in the arena," an image of the Greek athlete throwing off all encumbrances to his training regimen—including clothes! The writer to the Hebrews certainly conveyed that idea in a spiritual sense: "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Notes

1. Pat Goggins, "Character, the One Thing that Goes in the Casket with You," *Western Ag Reporter*, January 7, 2016.
2. N. T. Wright, *After You Believe* (New York: HarperOne, 2011), 63.