

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

GETTING STARTED...

Have you gone to any high school reunions? It is always interesting to see how people are both similar and different from when they were younger. We change as we grow older, but those changes are relatively small. As Paul addresses the work of God in our lives, he does not describe a small change but the biggest change possible. Paul has been worshipping God since the beginning of the book and finally he gets to fully unpack why he is so excited and praising God. It is because of the change that God has done in their lives, he has taken them from being dead in their sin to alive in Christ! God has made all the difference, and the change is as big as the difference between Heaven and Hell. Paul is worshipping God for his work in Jesus and calls us to live in such a way that shows that change for His glory.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What are all the metaphors that Paul uses to describe being in sin?
2. What are all the metaphors that Paul uses to describe being in Christ? What makes the difference?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz/Lake Errock Has your view of God changed after coming to a better understanding Ephesians 2:1-10? How does God view you? What are the "good works" that God has called you to, and how can you "walk in them"?

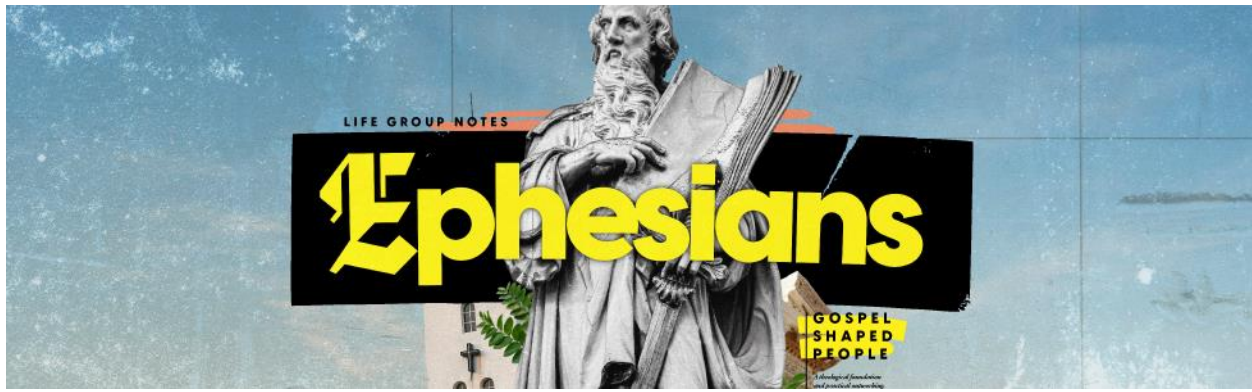
Chilliwack How does acknowledging/not acknowledging the truthfulness of our pre-conversion status described in verses 1-3 affect how you view the remaining verses in our text?

Harrison What sin or struggle in your life makes accepting God's free gift of grace most challenging? Do you ever strive to earn God's love? If so, how does the concept of grace being an undeserved gift through Christ challenge your efforts to earn God's love?

Promontory What are three ways you can respond to the gospel message this week? How does knowing the gospel more impact how you go to work? Treat your family? Share the gospel?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*