

Ephesians Study: Session 2 – Alive in Christ

(Lori Wilhite – Ephesians: Head Held High)

Big Idea

God takes people who were spiritually dead in sin and unable to save themselves and makes them alive together with Christ by His rich mercy, great love, and grace through faith. This salvation is a free gift with no room for boasting.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Paul describes our former state as dead in trespasses and sins. What does God do in response, and what does this reveal about His mercy, love, and kindness?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Salvation is by grace through faith, a gift of God and not a result of works. What makes it difficult at times to accept salvation as a pure gift rather than something we earn?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works He prepared in advance. How does this truth shift your perspective from trying to earn God's approval to walking in the purpose He has already designed? Share one area where you sense God nudging you toward a good work right now.
4. Read Ephesians 2:11-13 and 2:19-22. Paul urges us to remember who we once were (far off and without hope) and what Christ has done to bring us near. Why is it important to remember our "before" story? How does this help us respond with humility and grace toward others?

5. Ephesians 2 shows our personal rescue by grace and the unity Christ brings by breaking down walls. How can these truths help you live by the grace described in Ephesians 2:8 this week in areas of division, temptation, or strained relationships? What is one practical step you can take to walk in this new life and extend grace to others?

Takeaway to Remember:

You were once dead in sin and far from God, but now you are alive in Christ, saved by grace alone. You are God's masterpiece, created for the good works He prepared for you. Remember where you came from so you can walk humbly in His light, extend grace to others, and live as part of His unified family.

Memory Verse(s):

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Eph. 2:8 ESV)

This Week:

- Each morning, pray Ephesians 2:8 over your day: “Lord, I am saved by grace through faith, a gift from You. Help me live in this grace today.” Look for one specific way to live out your new life in Christ (in words, attitudes, or choices) and note it in the evening.
- Ask God daily to highlight one "good work" He has prepared for me to walk in. It could be as simple as an encouraging conversation, helping with a task, or showing patience in a hard moment. Take one intentional step toward it and trust His preparation.
- Identify one relationship where peace feels strained (or where differences exist). Pray for *shalom* in that relationship and take one practical step toward healing or connection, remembering that in Christ we are fellow citizens and members of God's household (Ephesians 2:19).
- Read Ephesians 3