

Ephesians 2:1-10

EPHESIANS GC DISCUSSION GUIDE

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From Death to Life by Grace

Big Idea

Salvation is entirely the work of God. We were spiritually dead, hopeless, and unable to save ourselves, but God, because of His great love and mercy, made us alive with Christ and saved us by grace through faith.

Main Theme

The gospel is not about bad people becoming better people; it is about dead people being made alive through Jesus Christ.

Opening Icebreaker

Have you ever been given a second chance that you didn't deserve? What made that experience meaningful?

Transition: In Ephesians 2, Paul describes something far greater than a second chance. He describes a spiritual resurrection.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Paul describe our condition before Christ in verses 1–3?

Leader Notes:Notice the language:

- Dead in sin
- Following the world
- Following Satan
- Living according to sinful desires
- Children of wrath

Paul paints a bleak picture to help us appreciate the greatness of God's grace.

Key Truth: Dead people cannot revive themselves.

2. Why is it important to understand the seriousness of our condition before salvation?

Leader Notes:People who minimize sin tend to minimize grace.

The depth of our rescue magnifies the glory of our Savior.

Cross Reference: Luke 7:47

3. What stands out to you about the phrase "But God" in verse 4?

Leader Notes:These may be the two most hope-filled words in the passage.

Humanity was helpless—but God intervened.

Discuss how God's initiative appears throughout Ephesians.

4. What do verses 4–5 teach us about God's character?

Leader Notes:Notice:

- Rich in mercy
- Great love
- Grace

God's rescue originates in His character, not our worthiness.

5. What does it mean that God "made us alive together with Christ"?

Leader Notes:Salvation is spiritual resurrection.

Union with Christ means what happened to Christ spiritually becomes true of us.

Cross Reference: Romans 6:4–5

6. According to verses 6–7, what future hope belongs to believers?

Leader Notes:Believers are already spiritually seated with Christ and will eternally display God's grace.

Discuss what it means to live from a position of victory rather than striving for acceptance.

7. Why does Paul emphasize "by grace you have been saved" twice in this passage?

Leader Notes:Grace is the central theme.

Salvation is:

- Not earned
- Not deserved
- Not achieved

It is received.

8. What does Paul teach about faith and works in verses 8–9?

Leader Notes:Faith is not a work that earns salvation.

Even faith itself is part of God's gracious gift.

The purpose is that no one can boast.

9. Why do people naturally want to contribute something to their salvation?

Leader Notes:Pride resists grace.

People often prefer earning acceptance rather than receiving mercy.

Discuss modern forms of self-righteousness.

10. How do verses 8–9 guard against both pride and despair?

Leader Notes:Pride disappears because salvation is God's gift.

Despair disappears because salvation does not depend on our performance.

11. What does verse 10 teach about the relationship between salvation and good works?

Leader Notes:Good works do not produce salvation.

Salvation produces good works.

Works are the fruit, not the root, of salvation.

12. What good works might God be calling you to walk in right now?

Leader Notes:Encourage practical application:

- Serving others
- Evangelism
- Generosity
- Forgiveness
- Hospitality
- Discipleship

Digging Deeper

Compare verses 1–3 and verses 4–10.

What changed?

Leader Notes:Nothing about us changed first.

God acted.

The hero of the story is God.

Gospel Connection

We were:

- Dead

But God:

- Loved us
- Made us alive
- Raised us up
- Saved us by grace

The gospel is God's rescue from beginning to end.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for:

- His mercy
- His grace
- Spiritual life in Christ
- Assurance of salvation
- Opportunities to walk in good works