



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look at verses 1-3. Depending on your view of God, it might feel like Paul is piling on guilt for our past sins. Notice that Paul mentions how we were stuck in sin "just like the rest of the world" and that we were subject to God's wrath, "just like everyone else."

Why might it be important to be reminded that we have ALSO been controlled by sin just like the rest of the world is?

2. Read verse 4 out loud in the New Living Translation.

God's motivation toward us is love and mercy - not correction or punishment. **What are some ways that God's rich mercy shows up in your life?**

3. This is a pivotal truth of Christianity - we have a God who is filled with so much mercy that He decided to give us eternal life with Him that we could never earn, so He didn't have to be separated from us in our sin - because of His great love for us.

Ask someone in the group to read verses 8-10, out loud. Take turns letting everyone in the room answer the question:

What word or phrase out of these three verses stands out the most to you, and why?



LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina is a practice of reading and prayerful meditation of scripture. It is a way of listening to God through the words of the bible. Lectio Divina means "divine reading" in latin. It is a way to deepen your relationship with God and to hear His voice more clearly through the words of the Bible.

PAIR UP IN GROUPS OF TWO AND TAKE TURNS READING THE FOLLOWING VERSES TO EACH OTHER

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,

5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

TAKE TURNS REPEATING THE FOLLOWING PHRASE TO EACH OTHER (READ IT 2X'S EACH).

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loves you so much

GREAT JOB. WHAT EMOTION DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU FOCUS ON THIS TRUTH? TELL IT TO GOD,

"LORD, I feel _____ when I hear these words spoken to me."

REPEAT THE FOLLOWING PHRASE OUT LOUD TO EACH OTHER (READ IT 2X'S EACH).

God gave you life when He raised Jesus from the dead.

WHAT EMOTION DO YOU FEEL, WHEN YOU HEAR THIS TRUTH? TELL IT TO GOD.

"I feel _____ when I hear these words."

NOW, TELL EACH OTHER WHAT EMOTIONS YOU EXPERIENCED DURING THIS PRACTICE. TRY NOT TO JUDGE OR EDIT YOURSELF.

Be careful not to give solutions or advice to your partner, about the words or emotions that came up for them - Just share and listen.

END YOUR TIME BY PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER. ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIS LOVE AND MERCY TO YOU BOTH.