

“Dead, Alive, and Made for This”

Session 2: Ephesians 1:15-2:10



Movement: Grounded

Theme: Grace is the only foundation for real transformation.

Check-In | *DO IT follow-up from Session 1 • ~3 minutes*

1. Last week you chose a Do It option. Did anyone try theirs? What happened . . . or what got in the way?

OPEN IT | *Icebreaker • ~6 minutes*

2. What's the most dramatic “before and after” transformation you've ever witnessed . . . a home renovation, a person's physical transformation, a car restoration, anything? What made it feel significant?

READ IT | *Scripture • ~3 minutes*

SAY IT:

This passage has two movements. First, Paul prays for what God wants to do in us. Then he shows us what God already did for us. We'll read them in two parts.

- Ephesians 1:15-23

3. Paul is praying that his readers would know God better . . . not just know more about him, but actually know him. He specifically prays they would grasp “his incomparably great power for us who believe.” What's the difference between knowing about someone's power and actually trusting it?

READ IT | Scripture • ~3 minutes

- Ephesians 2:1-10

EXPLORE IT | Discussion • ~22 minutes

★ 4. Paul says we were “dead in transgressions and sins.” Not sick. Not lost. Dead. Dead people can’t fix themselves, negotiate their way out, or try harder. What does it do to your understanding of salvation when you take that word seriously?

★ 5. Verses 4 and 5 are one of the most dramatic pivots in all of Scripture: “But God . . .” Two words that change everything. What was true before those two words? What became true after them?

★ 6. Verse 8 says salvation is “by grace . . . through faith . . . not by works.” But verse 10 says we were “created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Same passage, ten verses apart. How do you hold those two things together . . . that works have absolutely nothing to do with how you got here, and everything to do with why you’re here?

7. Verse 10 says we are God’s “handiwork” . . . some translations say masterpiece or workmanship. The Greek word is *poiema*, which is where we get the word poem. God didn’t mass-produce you. He authored you. And he did it with a purpose in mind: “good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” What does it do to your sense of calling to know that the works you’re meant to do were written into your story before you showed up?

SAY IT | Leader Teaching • ~3 minutes

SAY IT:

Here's the thing about transformation: we tend to think of it as something we produce. We try harder, commit more, show up better. And when it doesn't stick, we assume the problem is effort. Paul says the problem is the starting point. You can't transform yourself from the inside out. You were dead. Dead things don't improve themselves.

But God.

Those two words are the hinge everything swings on. Not "but you tried harder." Not "but you finally got serious." But God, who is rich in mercy, made you alive. That's not a self-improvement story. That's a resurrection story.

And here's what resurrection means for how you live: you're not trying to become something. You're learning to live as what you already are. Grounded & Sent isn't a small group study for getting better. It's an invitation to discover what God already did . . . and let that change everything.

DO IT | Application • ~6 minutes

Choose one of the following this week:

- **But God.** Think back to the moment . . . or the season . . . when your story turned. Write it down in three parts: what was true before, how did it turn, and what became true after. Around Brazos Pointe, we call this your "Three-Word Story." If you're not sure you've had that moment yet, write about what you wish were different and bring that honestly to God.
- **The Poiema Exercise.** Read Ephesians 2:10 slowly. You are God's handiwork . . . his poem . . . created for good works he prepared in advance. Spend ten minutes writing or thinking about this: What do you think those works might be? What has God wired into you that keeps showing up? Bring what you find to God as a prayer.
- **Grace Audit.** For one day this week, pay attention to every moment you feel the need to compensate, perform, or earn standing with God or with other people. Just notice it. Don't fix it yet. At the end of the day, bring the list to God and read Ephesians 2:8-9 over it.

- **Giving Grace.** Not the dinner table kind. Since God made you alive and you don't have to earn His grace, extend to someone else the grace you have received. Have a conversation, send a text, or remind someone else of God's grace toward them.

PRAY IT | *Closing Prayer* • ~3 minutes

Father, we were dead . . . and you made us alive. We had nothing to offer . . . and you gave us everything anyway. We confess that we still reach for effort when grace has already done the work. Remind us tonight that transformation isn't something we produce. It's something you do in people you already love. You authored us with purpose and planted good works in our path before we ever showed up to walk them. This week, would you help us live from that reality rather than toward it . . . not as people trying to earn your favor, but as people who can't believe they already have it. In Jesus' name, Amen.