



October 9&10, 2021

### Ephesians – Built for Community “Alive in Christ”

**Icebreaker:** Is there a work of art that has really moved you – a painting, song, film or video, etc.? How do you think the creator felt about making it?

**Opening Discussion:** Looking back at your Engage and Grow notebook or your notes from the message, what stands out to you the most?

### Digging Deeper:

#### Read *Ephesians 2:1-10*

1. In verse 1 we read, “You were dead in your transgressions and sins.” What does that mean? How does it make you feel?
2. Paul lists three things in a system of evil – the ways of this world, Satan and the desires and cravings of our flesh. Why is it important that we be aware of all three?
3. Paul uses the word “you” when talking to the Ephesians in verses 1-2. In verse 3 he uses the words “all of us” and “we”. Thankfully it is past tense; our story is different now thanks to Christ. But why would we have been “objects deserving of wrath”?
4. What changes in verse 4 and following? What do verses 4-5 tell us about what God has done for us?
5. What is mercy? How is it different than grace?
6. Three times in verses 5-10, you see the words “so that”. Each use communicates a result or purpose for God’s actions. In the space below, write down God’s actions and the given purpose. The first one is done for you.

vv. 5-7 God’s actions: Made us alive, raises us up and seated us with Christ

God’s purpose: To show His kindness for all eternity

vv. 8-9 God’s actions: \_\_\_\_\_

God’s purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 God’s actions: \_\_\_\_\_

God’s purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Verses 8-10 show we are saved by grace and then works follow. Why is it important to always remember the order correctly? To get a deeper understanding of grace, read John 1:4-17; Romans 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Hebrews 4:14-16
8. What does it mean to you that you are God’s poiema (verse 10)? We get our word poem, but it is translated workmanship or masterpiece. Do you see yourself that way? Why or why not?

### Moving Forward:

**Memorize** Ephesians 2:8-10. Do you know someone who needs to hear about God’s grace? Pray for them and invite them to your Hope Group or to this series so they will hear more about it.

**Prayer:** If you have been trying to earn your way or be good enough for God – talk to Him about it. Trust in His goodness rather than your own. Thank Him for His grace. Commit yourself to be the masterpiece He created you to be.

**Share the truth:** If you know someone who’s trying hard to earn God’s grace, what can you say in a gently, loving way to present the truth of Ephesians 2 to him/her?