



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: "Grace in New Life" - Ephesians 2:1-10

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

Have you ever shown mercy to a person that deserved condemnation/judgement? Or visa versa? What happened? (If you can't think of a specific personal instance, think of a time in a news event, or a movie where this was true.)

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dave shared a story of an atheist who had a near-death experience who did not attribute it to anything spiritual or from God, but it did awaken him to seeing life differently, to experiencing a new life.

1. How does Paul's use of this imagery of being dead in our sin and being brought to new life accurately describe our spiritual condition? How may it be different?

2. How is understanding our sin nature as total depravity important in illuminating Paul's idea that we all human beings share this nature in common, even though we may experience it differently? In what way does this help us understand how dead we were in our sin and in need of a Savior?

Dave made a point to say that outside of Christ we are all dead/unresponsive even though we may have different "conversion experiences". Of the three conversion experiences he listed: The Dramatic, Discovery (slow awakening) or Anchored (always knew)--what would best describe your experience?

What would you say was the moment or season in your life that you realized you were dead in sin, but made alive in Christ? What brought you to this place? How did it begin to shape your perspective?

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why was your position "hopeless" before you put your faith in Christ?

What one thing has changed the most about you after you put your faith in Christ?

In what way do you now see that both your sin nature, and the Commander of the unseen world worked in tandem to blind you from seeing and receiving Christ? In what way does this give us compassion for those who are not Christians and inform our prayer life and how we approach sharing our faith with others?

Why hasn't anyone ever deserved God's grace, or mercy?

In what way may it be “easy” to slip into thinking that we can take credit for salvation?

In Christ we have new life with a new position, a new purpose and new perspective? Considering Paul says you are God’s Masterpiece, designed to do good things he planned for long ago... what does that mean to you personally? What would you do differently tomorrow if you embraced that you are God’s Masterpiece today?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?