

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 2:1-5 is a beacon of hope in the midst of a hopeless situation. Paul begins by describing our hearts as dead, but then two words change everything... “but God”.

SCRIPTURE

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved....

Ephesians 2:1-5

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Do you think of yourself as basically good with areas of sin and evil, or as basically evil with areas of good?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. Ephesians 1 ends with Paul’s beautiful prayer for the Ephesians, in which he begs God to give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they would know Him better (1:17). He begins Ephesians 2 by reminding the Ephesians of their condition before Christ. How does knowing you lived in spiritual deadness help you know God better?
3. According to theologian William Barclay, “the central idea of sin is failure, failure to hit the target, failure to hold to the road, failure to make life what it was capable of becoming.” If your idea of sin is “doing something bad”, how does Barclay’s definition challenge you?
4. Read the following passages, and list what life without Christ is characterized by:

Romans 8:7 _____

Galatians 5:19-21 _____

Ephesians 2:2-3 _____

Ephesians 2:12 _____

Colossians 1:13 _____

Study Questions for Community Groups

5. According to verse 4, what motivated God to make us alive in Christ? What does it mean to be alive in Christ?

APPLICATION

Read Psalm 8 each day this week and meditate on God’s greatness. Praise Him for Who He is.

And/Or

Text ALLIN to 797979 to receive a text from Fellowship each morning regarding God’s greatness. Praise Him for Who He is.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Why is it so important to understand that God is the only one that can change our dead in sin condition, and make you fully alive?

2. One of the most beautiful verses in the Bible is Ephesians 2:4. “But God” contains the gospel in two little words. Read the following passages and describe what happened when God entered the story.

Genesis 7:24-8:1 _____

Genesis 50:20 _____

1 Samuel 23:14 _____

Matthew 19:26 _____

Acts 3:15. _____

3. Do you have a story that has a “but God” in it?