

STUDYING THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 3 - Made Alive in Christ - Ephesians 2:1-10

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

EPH 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. [4] But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - Made Alive in Christ - Ephesians 2:1-10

25. Before conversion, what was the spiritual position of the Ephesians? (2:1)
26. What three characteristics mark the condition of a person without Christ? (2:2-3)
27. How are both Jew and Gentile alike? (2:3)
28. Why did God make those who were dead alive with Christ? (2:4-5)
29. What describes God's action in making us alive? (2:5)
30. What position has God given Christians in Christ by His divine power? (2:6)
31. What will God show in the future eternal state? (2:7)
32. What is the means of salvation? (2:8)
33. Where does salvation come from? (2:8)
34. Why can no one boast in his own salvation? (2:8-9)

35. How is the believer God's work of art? (2:10)

36. What is the purpose of God's workmanship? (2:10)

Lesson 4 - One in Christ - Ephesians 2:11-22

EPH 2:11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- [12] remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

EPH 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, [15] by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, [16] and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. [17] He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. [21] In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. [22] And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 4 - One in Christ - Ephesians 2:11-22

37. What did Paul command the Ephesians to remember? (2:11)

38. Why was being uncircumcised a desperate problem for the Gentiles? (2:11-12)

39. How did Christ's work on the cross transform the condition of the Gentiles? (2:13)

40. Who brought peace to Jewish and Gentile believers? (2:14)

41. Why did Christ end the hostility between Jews and Gentiles? (2:14-16)

42. How did the enmity between Jews and Gentiles come to an end? (2:15-16)

43. What is the result of believing the message of Christ? (2:17-18)

44. In Christ, how did the Gentiles achieve new spiritual and social status? (2:19)
45. On what foundation were the Ephesian believers built? (2:20)
46. How was Christ part of the foundation? (2:20)
47. How was the church described as living and growing? (2:21)
48. How were the Ephesians becoming part of God's dwelling? (2:22)
49. How did God live in the Ephesian Christians? (2:22)