

EPHESIANS: Week 3 – Signed For

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Paul opens chapter two by reminding us that we were once spiritually dead. He opens the passage with that stark reality because we cannot truly grasp the indescribable grace of God without first realizing our spiritual condition without Him. Our salvation is not based upon a series of good deeds that will eventually tip the scales and make us worthy of forgiveness. Salvation is only by His transformational grace that makes us alive in Him.

Tell the story – Ephesians 2:1-10 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God is rich in mercy; God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8); if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation (II Cor. 5:17); God wants the good news of His grace to be shared with the future generations to come (verse 7); God expressed His kindness and grace to us through the cross; God has created and gifted me to accomplish His will for my life (verse 10); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[Before Jesus saved me, I was spiritually dead in my sins and transgressions; whenever I sin, I become a slave to sin (John 8:34); God's kindness is intended to lead me to repentance; I cannot save myself by doing good works; it's only by God's grace that I am saved; I need to continually surrender to the Lord's leadership and follow His plan for my life (Prov. 3:5-6); I can become stubborn and refuse to follow the Lord's leadership; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Have you ever been guilty of trying to earn your salvation by performing good works? If so, what did you do? How did that process make you feel?
2. How have you seen God working in you lately (verse 10)?

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 2:11-22 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 3 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Communication is key. Miscommunication can happen and before you know it, you are dealing with its lasting effects. If you are in a Grow Group discussion, and someone makes a comment that you feel could be taken the wrong way, be strategic and ask questions that may lead him or her to explain their thoughts clearer.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

A spiritual child may be young in faith or may have been a believer for years. Spiritual children are typically self-centered, idealistic, and may fluctuate between over confidence (pride) and under-confidence (defeat). You may see this in actions and hear it in their conversation.

To shepherd someone who is a spiritual child, you must be in relationship with them at a deeper level than just a weekly meeting. Help them build a meaningful relationship with God by teaching them how to pray, pointing them to biblical truths, and involving them in the family of God through corporate worship and relationships with other believers. Spend time listening to them and tell them your story. Introduce them to other believers who can also come alongside them to help encourage and challenge them. Point out their abilities and invite them to serve in some way so that they can begin seeing their purpose in God's mission. Give them grace and support when they make mistakes.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Communication is an extremely important leadership skill. The three most common ways leaders miscommunicate are under-communication, contradictory communication, and misaligned communication. Today as you spend time with God, ask Him to search your heart and show you where your actions may not be lining up with your words. Those you are trying to disciple will quickly discount your leadership if they see the imbalance.