

One: The Book of Ephesians
Small Group Discussion Resource
Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Start your time together by reading Ephesians 2:1-10 together and then opening in prayer.
2. In Ephesians 2:1-3, what does Paul describes us as having been dead when describing how we were before Jesus. How does that language or the seriousness of that condition impact our relationship with God or our understanding of what it means to be made alive in Christ?
3. Discuss this quote from the theologian H.G. Wood:
“There are many kinds of life: vegetable life, animal life, mental life, moral life, and spiritual life. A being might be alive in one sense but dead in another. To be spiritually dead does not mean that we are physically dead, socially dead, or psychologically dead. Yet it is a real death, a “dead death” nonetheless. The most vital part of man’s personality – the spirit – is dead to the most important factor in life – God.”
4. Ephesians 2:2 describes how people lived according to the ways of the world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air. Where do we see this in our world today?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. What has your own personal experience been like with this. Either in your own faith journey or as you’ve attempted to witness to others?
6. Ephesians 2:6 speaks about being raised up with Christ and seated with him in the heavenly realms. This has implications for our present and our future. Talk through the implications of both.
7. John Stott was quoted as saying: *“Trespases speaks of man as a rebel, sins speaks of man as a failure. Before God we are both rebels and failures.”* Discuss the difference between failing at something, and rebelling, especially at it relates to living a life like Christ.

8. When Paul writes about following the ways of the world, he uses a word that means “to wander” and “to be aimless”. When left to our own devices, why are we so “prone to wander”?
9. In verse 4, Paul uses the words “But God”. Why is this transitional statement so important for us as we move from talking about our condition as dead, to being made alive in Christ? As you discuss that consider the statement from Martyn Lloyd-Jones that in the words “But God” is found the entire gospel of Jesus.
10. In Ephesians 2:4-9, how does Paul describe the nature of God's grace and mercy? What does it mean to be saved by grace, and how does this impact the way we view our own worth and value?
11. In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul states that salvation is a gift from God and not the result of our own works. How does this truth impact our understanding of salvation and our relationship with God? How might it affect the way we live our lives and interact with others?
12. Pastor Rob discussed that believers have their own “But God” moment at some point in their journey. A moment where they realize that they are broken, and need God to intervene in their lives. Describe your own “But God” moment where you experienced the power of God in your life.
13. The word that Paul uses in Ephesians 2:10 is the Greek word “poiema” which literally means poem or work of art. How does reading that inform your identity as you relate to God? Relating it back to other sermons in this series - when we see ourselves as God’s work of art, how then do we see ourselves in view of his sovereign plan for the world?
14. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul states that we are God's workmanship (alternatively, His masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus for good works. What does this mean for our identity and purpose as Christians, and how can we live out this calling in our daily lives?
15. Close in prayer together.