



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“PSALM 137” ON SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 Paul has bad news and good news for the Ephesians. The bad news is: We ALL are sinners who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and are spiritually dead outside of Christ! The good news is this: We are also ALL justified by the GRACE of God, as a GIFT, making us alive in Christ! Regeneration: From death to life because of Christ!

GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE: We're familiar with it, having heard about His grace throughout our lives, but...

- When you think about God's gift of grace, what does that really mean to you in your daily living – do you live in the reality of the gift that it is? Are there those around you that seem to feel they deserve His grace?
- How well do we understand our NEED for GRACE? Where do you observe this in the world around you?
- How well do we understand how far God went to SHOW us His grace – in our homes, in our workplaces, in our churches?

THE NEED FOR THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE: Paul addresses three areas of living that show our need for God's grace as we were dead in our trespasses and sins: The influence of the WORLD we walk in, the influence of SATAN, the prince of the power of the air, and the influence of the FLESH – our fallen, self-centered human nature.

- What patterns of the world might be shaping your outlook, your decisions, your attitudes, your habits? What is the cost of denying the world's influence, which is often the easier way?
- Satan is deceptive and sly, out to destroy your pursuit of God; can you describe situations in which you have realized you are being misled by him? How can you equip yourself to be aware of and resistant to his temptations?
- We are driven by 'the flesh' – satisfying our own desires. What is shaping your desires, your thinking patterns, your faith, and your self-esteem?

GOD'S IMMEASURABLE GRACE: BUT GOD.....IN CHRIST...SO THAT...FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP – Paul used these terms to describe the extent to which God has gone to redeem mankind in Christ! He has made us alive together with Christ, raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places! In this week's message, Daniel shared several thoughts that can help us grasp the fullness of verses 4-10; read those verses, and then toss Daniel's thoughts around for contemplation and discussion!

- When we understand grace, we SHOW grace. When we're struggling to show grace to someone, we've lost sight of the grace we've been shown. Have you experienced this in your own life, losing sight of the grace you've been shown?
- We are God's workmanship! Your life is an artwork – a poem God's writing – in His timing, in His way, that we should walk in them. How does that encourage you and challenge you?
- It's about missional living – walking every day in obedience to whatever He puts in front of us, wherever we are. How well do your daily patterns reflect this missional living?
- It's not about what we DO but what we JOIN GOD IN. How well do you do at letting God be in control and



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- giving yourself over to His leading?
- Who knows what may be in your path tomorrow that God has prepared beforehand, that you get to walk in?
- How do you think your world might change if you began each day with, "God, what do You have for me today?"

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.