

### **Ephesians 2:1-10 New Living Translation**

**2** Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

**4** But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, **5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) **6** For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. **7** So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

**8** God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **10** For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Aside from the Resurrection, what part of the Easter story do you find most incredible?

Have you ever wrestled with doubts concerning the Resurrection? What were they? How did you deal with them?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. In verse 4, Paul highlights the mercy and love of God. When you think about God, how often do you picture Him as merciful, and how often do you picture Him as judgmental?

Where do we see the mercy and love of God in our daily lives?

According to scripture, in Jesus we see the fullness of who God is. What do we learn about God from the character and actions of Jesus?

Is the life that we are given in Christ only for after death? Or can we experience this life now? What does new life look like in our everyday lives?

In the sermon, John talked about following Jesus as a decision followed by a process. And “a big part of that process is becoming active in the life of the church. The church is the environment that Jesus uses to help His followers grow closer to Him.” How has the church helped you grow closer to Jesus?

How can your group help you to grow closer to Jesus this week?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**