



PART TWO: WINNING THE BATTLE

There are few things worse than picking a fight...and losing! Why are we studying this little book? Because we all fight battles. And to be honest, sometimes we are like a smelly teenager spraying body spray on something that will never smell fresh without a brand new start. We fight the wrong battles.

BIG IDEA: The battle is won when we trust in what God has done.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one of the best gifts you received as a child? What made it so special for you?
2. Last week, the primary focus was acknowledging our position with Christ as believers. How has this shift in thinking affected your life this past week?
3. With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 2:1-10

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. [a] 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.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

4. Every believer has a “but God” moment in their story. Discuss your story in light of Ephesians 2:1–10.
5. Spiritually, do you feel more dead or alive now? What has God prepared you to be and to do?
6. As a group, discuss some battles where you would like to experience breakthroughs in your lives.
7. Read Ephesians 2:13–16. What walls of hostility do you see in the world today? How can we as Christians model reconciliation?
8. Read Ephesians 2:19–22. In what ways is individual growth necessary for us to be unified? What steps can we take to grow, individually and collectively?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What relationship in your life still has walls to be knocked down? What is your role in that process? This week, how can we as a group practically choose to rest in what God has already done while also doing the “good things” that God has prepared for us?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. - Ephesians 2:12-13 (NLT)