

Our **Virtual**

# PowerGroup

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Week 3 Study

## Icebreaker

What is one item that you have on display in your home or office, about which you are happy to tell people?

## Passage 1 EPHESIANS 2:1-3

Remember the high note that Paul left off with at the end of chapter 1 as he talked about all the wonderful spiritual blessings we have received in Christ. Paul gives a clear picture of the condition of the person who is without Christ in the opening verses of chapter 2. The person is dead (2:1), disobedient (2:2), completely corrupt (depraved), and deserving of God's wrath (2:3).

**Reflection** What does it mean to be dead in your sins and to be followers of the prince of this air?

How has Jesus brought you from death to life? What have you been rescued from? What would your life look like with the Lord?

Which of the "ways of the world" or "the cravings of our flesh" have you ever followed? How did this impact your life?

## Passage 2 EPHESIANS 2:4-7

Paul's tone changes in v. 4, as he returns to a jubilant declaration of our new reality. What are the reasons Paul gives for why God has "made us alive with Christ?" Because of his great love for us, Because God is rich in mercy, He wants to show the incomparable riches of his grace, He expresses kindness to us. You can say that these verses are explicitly about God and our blessings as believers.

**Reflection** Explain the importance of the short phrase, "But God."

What was God's motivation to give you a new life?

How did God make it possible for us to have a new life?

Just based on these verses, how would you define "grace?"

How do these descriptions of God's action toward us move or encourage you? Are any of them new or surprising insights?

### Passage 3 **EPHESIANS 2:8-10**

In verses 8-9 Paul makes clear that salvation, our new life with God, is not a result of anything we can do; it is a gift of God in Christ alone. Only God's grace brings new life. We cannot earn salvation by our works; we cannot pay for our sin by trying to pile up good works. Everything we do is tainted by the sin that clings to us. So the only way we can be saved from the curse of sin is by the way God provided for us—"by grace . . . through faith" in Christ (2:8). As a result, in all of this there is no room for boasting on our part.

**Reflection** How much do our efforts contribute to the reason why we get this new life?

Do you ever feel that you need to earn God's favor or us? If so, why do you think it's hard to accept his grace as a free gift?

Explain the connection between verses 8-9 and 10 if good deeds cannot save us.

In what way should the last phrase of verse 9 be evident in our lives?

### **Application**

Most people wonder what their purpose in on earth. It is interesting that in v. 10 we see that God has not only given us a purpose, but designed our purpose before we were even created!

**What do you feel that God is calling you to do in this moment? Take the time to pray over each person in the area they mention that God may be preparing them for!**