

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 4/14/2024

Life in the Light – Ephesians 2:1-10

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- **Light is available to us in Jesus if we'll receive it. See Ephesians 5:8**
- **God offers us a new way**
 - He has a way and a plan for you!
 - When we follow Jesus, we embrace a new way of life: as an Everyday Disciple
 - Someone who follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.
- Letters urge people to become Everyday Disciples
 - To give instruction as they face life's challenges and make mistakes and grow.
 - To be a hearer of the Gospel **and** a participant.
- **Ephesians 2:1-2** describes the "before" – where we are without Jesus
 - transgression – something we've done to destroy trust with someone, including God
 - Sin – failure to love God and others by not treating them with the honor they deserve.
 - Doing whatever we want while ignoring what God says is good
 - Failure to love God well
- **Ephesians 2:3** you're following the desires and thoughts of your flesh, you're not following Jesus as Everyday Disciples do (see definition above).
 - You're following someone/something. **What/who are you following?**
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** Even when we've broken the trust with God (transgressions), God draws us closer to Him; He gives us grace to save us.
 - **What do you do when someone breaks trust with you?** (Push them away??)
 - See **Romans 5:2** (through faith we follow), **2 Timothy 1:9** (we receive grace through Jesus)
 - Even before Creation, God said I'm going to make grace available
- **Ephesians 2:6-7** we are raised up (to new life) with Christ. Remember, we were dead in our transgressions. Christ defeated death and we have an invitation to live in a resurrected life – to participate in the Gospel.
- **What does it look like to move from being an observer of the resurrection to being a participant in it? What does it look like to come to life?**
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** works, handiwork, do good works (lots of the word "works").
 - As God changes us, we're moved to be on mission with Him. AS He changes us into His handiwork, He moves us to work on mission with Him.
 - That is resurrected life. There's not a thing we can do to top the fact we are God's handiwork.
 - Because we are His handiwork, we are created for and called to good and meaningful life changing work.
 - Good work overflows from a life of being changed by the resurrection of Jesus.
- **Car Conversation – How do I get God's grace, and what do I do with it?**
- **Who/what are you following?**

You were made to be part of the redemption story.