



#### **Week 4- "Alive"**

**Christianity offers us an incredible opportunity to read documents written by people who knew Jesus. They wrote first hand accounts of what Jesus said and what He did. In this series, we are reading a letter written to the Ephesians by a guy named Paul. In this week's message we continue to read the letter Paul wrote to the Ephesians and how his letter clearly describes what Christianity meant for them and what it means for us today.**

1. In what ways do you notice yourself trying to hide your brokenness and the reality that you are addicted to yourself?

#### **Read Ephesians 2:1-13**

**Christianity clearly teaches:**

- **That we are more sinful than we ever dared believe,**
- **Yet more loved than we ever dared hope,**
- **And through faith in Christ more whole than we ever dared imagine.**

2. In what ways do you strive to fix your broken human nature yourself?

3. Do you ever allow yourself to truly ponder who you are/were outside of Christ? Why or why not?

4. Have you come to a place where you recognize that you need to sit with Christ and allow Him to make you new? Why or why not?

5. What is an area that you would love to grow in but you feel impatient because it doesn't seem to be happening?

6. When you sit with Christ you naturally begin to walk differently. Are you able to rest in the truth that He has made you new and that the growth you desire takes time?

7. Where do you need to extend grace to yourself and to others in the growth process?

8. Are there weeds of hurt, shame, and guilt that seem to hinder the growth in Christ you long for?

9. In what ways do you think it could help to surrender the weeds to God and share them with someone else?

10. What step can you take this week to lean into the Holy Spirit to reveal weeds to you and trust that His nature is what defines you?

**When we trust in Christ and surrender to Him, He puts a new nature in us. His incorruptible seed is planted inside us and we are more whole than we ever dared imagine. Our old nature is no longer what defines us, instead His nature is fused with ours. We can surrender to Him and rest in the idea that the growth we desire takes time, and we can bring to light the weeds of hurt, shame, and guilt that attempt to choke out the life He has planted in us. "It is by grace we have been saved" Ephesians 2:5**