

Read Ephesians 2 in its entirety aloud together as a Small Group.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Worship Option: Consider singing or reading the words to "Amazing Grace" together.

First the bad news... (Read Ephesians 2: 1-3)

1. How do verses 1-3 help us understand what sin is? Likewise, how do they show us that sin is not just bad choices we make, but a condition in which we live?

2. Why is it important that we understand humanity, apart from Christ, to be dead in sin and not just bad? (Also see: Rom. 3:10; 8:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:14)

a) Who is the "prince of power of the air"? (Compare this with 2 Cor. 4:4)

b) What is "the course of this world"? (Also see: Romans 1: 20-25)

Now the Good News!! (Read Ephesians 2: 4-10)

3. According to verses 4-7, why has God made us alive together with Christ? Do these verses make you grateful? Humble? Explain your answers.

4. Read verses 8-9 again. What would you say to someone who thinks they will go to heaven because they are a good person and do nice things?

5. Read verse 10. What is the difference between attempting to be saved by "good works" and being saved for good works? How would you explain this concept to a new believer you are discipling?

a) Do you find yourself accepting a salvation by grace, and then trying to maintain righteousness through human effort? In what ways is this contrary to verses 8-10?

Implications of the Good News!! (Read Ephesians 2:11-22)

6. How has Christ destroyed hostility and made peace possible for all people (v. 14)? According to verses 14-18, what are the positive results of this wall coming down? Which one is the most significant to you and why?

7. In his sermon on this passage Pastor Paul said, "*Our effectiveness as a church in our community will be rooted in our unity.*" Based on verse 20-21, give three reasons why unity is essential for living out the purposes described in these verses?

Personal Application/Breakout

1. Read Eph. 2:4-5. Briefly write out your "*But God*" salvation story, to share with others in your Small Group breakout.

2. In keeping with our previous Small Group study on prayer, spend a significant amount of time praying for:

- Thanks and praise to God for His truths and promises provided to us in Ephesians 2.
- Unity within Harvest Niagara, and keeping Christ Jesus as the cornerstone.