

EPHESIANS – Week 3

Life Group Notes



CONNECT QUESTION

What is one thing that makes you laugh?

If you could be called by a new name – what would you choose and why?

Ephesians 2:1-3. Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 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. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 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.

We sometimes can forget the simplicity of our faith – Jesus gave himself in our place and took on our punishment so that by putting our faith in Him, we might have life! How can we remain thankful for our salvation, and not take it for granted? How can we keep our “first love” fresh and resist getting casual with our salvation?

So many people in the world today are seeking spiritual enlightenment, or some kind of spiritual experience – what they get is often a counterfeit – we can’t truly experience spiritual life until our spirits are brought to life through our belief in Jesus. Discuss this idea of spiritual enlightenment – are we looking to Jesus, or have we attempted to tap into counterfeits of spiritual power (horoscopes, ouija boards, witchcraft, mediums, mindfulness etc.)? How can we keep free of this stuff? How could we respond to those around us who are pursuing these things?

Check out **Ephesians 2:4-7**. Even when we were dead in sin, God made us alive with Christ! If we do not choose Christ as our master – we are actually choosing the devil as our master. If we aren’t serving Jesus, we give authority of our lives over to the devil. However, God’s plan is that not one of us should perish – His plan is that every person would know his love and experience salvation – see **1 Thessalonians 5:9**. How should (or could) we respond when people ask us what God thinks about them, or about those who may be living contrary to God’s word?

God wants us to have enlightenment. God's word is alive and living within us! How do you ensure that God's Word is alive in you? What strategies work for you to memorise scripture. Choose a verse together as a group, and make it your goal this week to commit it to memory – and hold each other accountable next week 😊

Check out Ephesians 2:8-9. It is by GRACE that we have been saved through FAITH! This is a gift from God – no earned nor deserved! We walk by faith – not by sight. Our feelings do not dictate our fate! How can we live with faith, rather than allowing our emotions to dictate what we think and influence our choices?

Check out **Ephesians 2:10**. We are a masterpiece – an amazing work of art – poetry in motion! We are unique, tailor-made and precious to Jesus. His thoughts about us are more numerous than the grains of sand on the seashore! Check out **Psalms 139:16-18**. Do you see yourself the way God sees you, or do you struggle with feelings of insecurity or self-worth? How can we establish our identity as healthy and whole people, fearfully and wonderfully made?

Three keys to overcoming – Stay holy, humble and hungry. Holy – staying close to Jesus, Humble – being quick to apologise and serve others and Hungry – expecting Jesus to use us every day! Which of these three keys do you need to work on this week?

PRAYER

Pray and take some time to be thankful for our salvation – and for other good things that God has given us

Pray that we would see ourselves the way God sees us, and that we would pass this truth onto others.