
Next Week's Life Group: Made for More, Study in Ephesians

Next Week's Story: Ephesians 3 & Matthew 13:44-50

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



**MADE
FOR
MORE**

A STUDY THROUGH EPHESIANS

**WEEK 2
MAY 4 & 5**

**LIFE
GROUPS
GUIDE**

MADE FOR MORE

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

Ephesians 2:8-9

GETTING STARTED

Have you experienced an earthquake? If so, how did you react in that moment?

STORY BACKGROUND

Paul's letter to the Ephesians was written as a circulating letter, designed to be shared among all the churches in Asia, then eventually the world. His priority was to clearly explain that salvation is a gift of God's grace that is obtained only through the exercise of faith and not through human works. Without salvation, every person is spiritually dead. Each person who responds in faith, and receives God's gift of salvation by grace, immediately becomes spiritually alive, and is securely placed into the household of God.

As Paul explained, this salvation was available to both the Gentiles (non-Jews), who had no previous experience with God or His Word, and referred to as "*you who were far away*", and to Jews, referred to as "*those who were near*", who knew about God but had become trapped in a system of works (Ephesians 2:17). Both groups were separated from God by their sin. They had been divided from one another by race and worldview. The story in Acts 16 illustrates the dramatic simplicity of the salvation message as well as its power to instill love and unity in those who had been positioned as enemies.

WHAT IS SALVATION?



STORY: Acts 16:25-34 (Story)
Ephesians 2 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:8-9

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



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What statement about salvation is repeated in Ephesians 2:5 and 8? What is grace?
- What was the condition of the person described in Ephesians 2:1 and 12 as compared to Ephesians 2:5 and 19?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Do you think it is fair for God to accept Christ's sacrifice for our sins?
- Read Ephesians 2:4-6. Paraphrase it and put it into your own words. What is God saying to you in these verses?



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- What are some ways you can share salvation with someone who is within your sphere of influence but does not share your worldview?
- What are some ways believers can strengthen their connection to other members of God's household? What has been most effective for this in your own life?