

## EPHESIANS

The Gospel shines through Ephesians from start to finish. Like a tree, the letter starts with strong roots beneath the surface, which allows for fruitful living. In a broad sense, the first half of Ephesians says, "This is who you are, by grace" and the second half says, "This is how you should live, by grace."



### WHEN YOU MEET:

Week starting Monday 24 March

#### Connect:

Spend some time greeting and welcoming each other.

#### Pause & Pray:

Take a few minutes to pause and clear your mind, letting go of what may be filling your heart and mind. Share with God what's going on for you at this moment. Allow Him to remind you that you are at home in Him and His immense love for you. He doesn't need anything else from you right now - just your stillness. Pray, asking God to speak to each person through the time together as we reflect on God's word.

**Read & re-read the passage:** Ephesians 2:1-10

#### Summary:

The media enables us to grasp the worldwide extent of evil, and it makes the current scene look dark. Against the sober background of our world, Ephesians 2 stands out in striking relevance. Paul first plumbs the depths of pessimism about humankind and then rises to the heights of optimism about God. Paul paints a vivid contrast between what humankind is by nature and what it can become by grace.

#### Questions:

1. What do you think life would be like for you right now if you had not become a Christian?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. It is important to set this paragraph in its context. This paragraph is really a part of Paul's prayer that they (and we) might know how powerful God is. Its first few words emphasise this: "you were dead." What were the Ephesians like before they met Christ?
3. Before Jesus Christ set us free, we were subject to oppressive influences from both within and without. To what forces are non-Christians enslaved (vv. 2-3)?
4. What does it mean to be deserving of God's wrath?
5. What do we learn about God's desires for us from these verses?
6. Why does Paul work so hard to make it crystal clear that this salvation is by grace, not our works or human effort?

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**Questions:**

7. What hinders you from doing the good works God prepared for you to do?

**Pray:**

Spend a few moments reflecting on your spiritual condition before you met Christ.

Now praise him for the work of grace that he has done in you!

**MORE RESOURCES:**

- Discipleship Resources Hub: [grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/](https://grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/)
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



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