

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

EPHESIANS 2 (KJV) · AUGUST 27, 2026

1. STUDY TITLE

Rescued, Raised, and Reconciled: The Miracle of Grace

2. FOCUS PASSAGE

Focus Passage: Ephesians 2:1–22

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV)

3. BIG IDEA / MAIN POINT

God takes spiritually dead rebels, makes them alive together with Christ by His sovereign grace alone, and unites them into one new dwelling place for His Spirit.

4. SESSION OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

- Suggested time: 60–90 minutes
- Goal of the study: To humble the group under the weight of our past spiritual deadness, elevate our view of God's sovereign mercy in Christ, and inspire a life of joyful, grace-motivated good works and unity within the church.
- Special notes: This passage covers some of the most profound foundational theology in the New Testament. Take your time, especially on verses 1–10, and allow space for the sheer weight of God's grace to sink in.

5. OPENING (10–12 MIN)

Welcome everyone warmly to the group. Read this opening sentence aloud: "Welcome, everyone! It is so good to gather around God's Word tonight. Let's dive into a passage that reminds us right where we came from and, more importantly, where God has placed us in Christ."

Icebreaker Question: "Think of a time when you received a completely unexpected, deeply generous gift. What was it, and how did it make you feel toward the person who gave it?"

Opening Prayer: "Father, thank You for bringing us together tonight. As we open the book of Ephesians, open our hearts as well. Show us the depth of our need and the staggering height of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen."

6. CONTEXT & SETTING THE SCENE (3–5 MIN)

The Apostle Paul is writing to believers in Ephesus, a bustling, idolatrous port city dominated by the temple of Artemis. Many in this church were formerly pagan Gentiles, completely cut off from the covenants of God, while others were Jewish believers. Paul begins this chapter by painting a dark, unflinching picture of humanity's natural spiritual condition outside of Christ. He then shatters that darkness with three glorious words: "But God." From there, he unpacks how God bridges the gap between estranged peoples—Jew and Gentile alike—by uniting them into one spiritual temple through the cross. Let's read the passage together.

7. READ THE PASSAGE

Have two different people read Ephesians 2:1–22 aloud (perhaps one person reading verses 1–10 and another reading verses 11–22), while the rest of the group follows along in their Bibles or on the text below.

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might, reconcile both unto God in one body by, the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And

are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Ephesians 2:1–22 (KJV)

8. OBSERVATION QUESTIONS (“WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?”)

1. How does Paul describe the spiritual condition of human beings before they are saved in verses 1–3? What words indicate their level of ability or helplessness?
2. What phrase in verse 4 marks the turning point of the passage, and what attributes of God are highlighted right after it?
3. According to verses 5–6, what three things has God done *with* and *in* Christ for believers?
4. In verses 11–12, how does Paul describe the past status of the Gentile believers regarding God, His covenants, and hope?
5. According to verses 13–16, how was the hostility and distance between people—and between humanity and God—removed?
6. In verses 19–22, what metaphors does Paul use to describe the new identity and community of believers?

9. INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (“WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?”)

1. In verse 1, Paul says we were “dead in trespasses and sins.” Why is a corpse a helpful (though tragic) metaphor for spiritual deadness before salvation? What can a spiritually dead person contribute to their own rescue?
2. Verse 8 states that salvation is “not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” How does this verse protect the glory of God and demolish human pride in salvation?
3. Verse 10 says we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, “which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” If good works don’t save us, what is their proper place in the Christian life according to this verse?
4. Look at verses 14–15. What was the “middle wall of partition,” and how did Christ’s flesh abolish the enmity of the ceremonial law to create “one new man”?
5. How does Ephesians 2 connect back to God’s eternal covenant purposes, showing that saving sinners and uniting a diverse people into one body (the church) was always His plan through Christ? (Consider Romans 8:29–30 for cross-reference).
6. How does having “access by one Spirit unto the Father” (v. 18) reflect the Trinitarian nature of our salvation—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all working in harmony to redeem us?

10. APPLICATION QUESTIONS (“HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE US?”)

1. **[Personal]** When you look at the description of your life before Christ in verses 1–3 (or the alienation in verse 12), what specific area of that description feels most familiar to your own story? How does remembering where God rescued you from change how you view your daily life?
2. **[Personal/Gospel Reminder]** Many believers still struggle with the subtle temptation to earn God's approval through their religious performance or moral achievements. How does verse 8–9 confront that mindset? What would it look like to truly rest in salvation as a pure gift this week?
3. **[Group / Community]** In verses 13–18, Paul explains that Christ tore down dividing walls between groups of people who were naturally hostile to one another. What kinds of “dividing walls” (cultural, political, racial, generational) tempt Christians to stay apart today, and how does the cross dismantle them?
4. **[Group / Community]** Verses 19–22 picture the church as a holy temple where God dwells by His Spirit. How should this high calling shape the way we treat one another in our local church community and in our small group?
5. **[Hands]** Verse 10 tells us we are God's workmanship created for good works. What is one tangible, practical good work God has placed right in front of you this week—perhaps a neighbor, a family member, or a fellow church member—that you can step into?

This week I will... *(Take a moment to write down one concrete step of obedience or grace you will practice this week in light of this passage.)*

11. RESPONSE & CLOSING (10–15 MIN)

Reflective Silence Prompt: “Let's take 30 seconds of quiet reflection. Think about the phrase ‘But God’ in verse 4. Silently thank Him for the moment He intervened in your spiritual death with His rich mercy.”

Optional Short Prayer of Response: “Father, we confess we bring nothing to the table for our salvation. Thank You for loving us while we were yet dead in our sins, and for making us alive together with Christ.”

Prayer Requests: Invite the group to share brief prayer requests, especially related to the application steps they just considered or any relational “dividing walls” they need God's help to cross.

Closing Prayer: “Lord God, thank You for the indescribable riches of Your grace shown to us in Christ Jesus. You pulled us out of the grave, seated us with Your Son, and brought us into Your household. Help us to walk humbly, love one another deeply, and live out the good works You prepared for us ahead of time. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Memory Verse (Take Home):

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)