

What's Changed?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Objective: The new believer will understand some of the spiritual changes that have taken place as a result of their new life in Christ.

Kickoff Question: What is a decision you have made that has changed how you think and act? (where you went to school, an organization you joined, etc.)

Context: We're going to look at a passage that shows what happens when someone chooses to trust and follow Christ. The Bible says that things have changed for you - we're going to look at what the Bible says about someone's life before Christ, the work of Christ, and life after Christ.

Life Before Christ

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 out loud.

Q: What does verse 1 say was true of us?

A: You were dead in your transgressions and sins

This is the first blank: You were dead

Q: How does being dead differ from what you previously thought about your status with God?

A: We usually compare ourselves to the worst of the worst (adulterers, rapists, child predators, etc.) and think we're pretty good. The reality is that because of our sin, we were spiritually dead.

Q: What do you think verse 2 means?

A: The ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient, is talking about Satan. It means that in our life before Christ, you and I were influenced by - even following - Satan.

The second blank is: You were influenced by Satan.

Q: How in verse 3 have you gratified the cravings of the sinful nature and followed its desires and thoughts?

Q: What does the last part of verse 3 say? (You were an object of wrath).

The third blank is: You were deserving of wrath.

Q: What do you think it means that we were deserving of God's wrath?

A: We were a bullseye for God's judgment because of our sin.

The Work of Christ

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 out loud.

The first blank in this section is that God's love makes us alive.

When someone is made alive through Christ, things start to change about them. They become more sensitive to God. They start to be broken over sin. They're able to read the Bible and have greater understanding of it. They start to desire obedience to Christ. Their old way of living doesn't appeal as much. Sin starts to become less attractive.

Q: Have you experienced any of the effects of being made alive in Christ? If so, which ones?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 out loud.

Q: The passage says it is by grace you have been saved 2 times (v.5, 8). God uses repetition to emphasize importance. What do you think it means to be saved?

A: Rescued from destruction

The second blank is God's grace saves us

Life after Christ

Read Ephesians 2:6 out loud.

Q: What do you think it means to be seated with Christ in the heavenly realms?

A: We gain eternal life

The blank is You gain eternal life.

Read Ephesians 2:7 out loud.

Q: What is one of the reasons God saved us?

A: To show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in God's kindness to us

The second blank is You gain God's kindness.

Why would God do all of this? Why would God kill his Son and save you from your sin? So that he could show you His kindness to you!

Read Ephesians 2:10

Q: What were we created in Christ for?

A: To do good works

The third blank is You gain God's purpose.

Q: We aren't saved *by* works, but we were saved *for* works. What are some examples of good works you think the verse is referring to?

A: Although not the only "work", you can use this as a chance to highlight evangelism or impacting other people for Christ. I'm excited for us to talk more about God's purpose next time!