



Group Guide

The New Has Come

April 20, 2025

Main Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Theological Theme

Apart from God, we are all dead in our sins, “but God, who is rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4) desires something better for us: a relationship with Him. He sent Jesus to the cross to die for our sins because He loves us deeply. When we accept this gift of salvation, our old life of bondage passes away, and a new life in Christ begins. We are new creations!

Introduction

- ❓ What does it mean to be transformed by Jesus? How would you describe the transformation Paul experienced?
- ❓ What other stories in the Bible can you think of that show how a person’s life was transformed after he or she came to believe in and follow Jesus?

1. Dead in Our Sins (Ephesians 2:1-3)

The heading before this section of Ephesians in the CSB translation says it all: “From Death to Life.” When we accept the gift of salvation that Jesus freely offers, this is the transformation we all undergo. The first three verses in this passage describe our reality before we know Jesus. It’s rather bleak, isn’t it?

- ❓ What does it mean to be “dead in your trespasses and sins” (v. 1)?
- ❓ How does this describe our lives before Jesus?
- ❓ Application: These verses describe the state of anyone who doesn’t know Jesus. What are some ways you could begin to share the good news of Jesus with someone who doesn’t yet know Him over the next month?

2. Made Alive (Ephesians 2:4-10)

Great hope is found in the first two words of this passage: “But God” (v. 4). Everything in verses 1 through 3 is true. This has been our reality, but God doesn’t want it to stay that way. He desires more and better for us. His plan for us is better than a life of bondage. He wants us to live a life of freedom that is only available through a relationship with Him.

- ❓ What do we learn about God in this passage?
- ❓ What does it mean to be made alive and raised up with Christ (vv. 5-6)?
- ❓ Application: What does it mean that we are created for good works (v. 10)? How can we devote ourselves to intentionally living this way?

3. New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

In our passage in Ephesians, Paul explained the transformation we go through when we believe in and follow Jesus. In our “old” life, we were slaves to sin, rebelling against a holy God and living in opposition to our Creator. But because of His great love for us, God offers the gift of salvation. We are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus.

- ❓ What does it mean to be a “new creation” in Jesus?
- ❓ What does it mean for the old to pass away and the new to come?
- ❓ Application: How do we continue to put away the “old self” and actively put on the “new self” in our lives each day?

Conclusion

- ❓ How would you summarize the transformation that Paul described in this passage in Ephesians? How has that been your personal reality?
- ❓ What role does the church play together in living the new life in Christ?
- ❓ What type of picture does Ephesians 1:1-3 paint of the lives of the people who know who do not yet know Jesus? Who is one friend you could share these truths with this week?