



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 64

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Salvation is all by God's grace.



MONDAY

THE STORY: EPHESIANS 2:1-3

Apart from grace, men are dead in their sins. Paul makes it perfectly clear that as sinners, we were not reaching out to God. We were dead in our sins. A dead man cannot help himself. Instead of reaching out to God, we satisfied our sinful cravings and desires. This is true of all men, Gentiles and Jews alike. As a result, we were by nature objects of God's wrath. Any thought that we were seeking after God is shattered by Paul's words. Apart from God breathing life into us, we were hopelessly dead in our sin, in rebellion against God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why does the picture of a dead man leave no room for us to think we contributed to our salvation? (A dead man can do nothing whatsoever. He can contribute nothing to his cause.)

What does Paul mean when he says we were objects of God's wrath? (We were all deserving God's anger and punishment for our sin.)

PRAY:

Have each person confess in prayer that he is a sinner in need of the grace of God. Then ask God to pour out His Spirit on every member of your family.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: EPHESIANS 2:4-11

Salvation is by grace. After establishing that all men are dead in their sins, Paul introduces the mercy of God, which can bring a dead man back to life. While we were dead in our sins, God made us alive in Christ. We bring nothing to our salvation; it is all by grace through faith alone. No one can boast that he or she sought after God. As Christians, we are Christ's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God prepared for us to do.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Can any man take credit for his salvation? (No, no one can take even the slightest credit for salvation.)

Who is at the center of all the good we do? (God is at the center of all the good we do. It is God who gives us faith while we are dead. It is God who re-creates us. And it is God who prepared the good works we walk in as Christians. Our only boast is in Jesus!)

PRAY:

Take time as a family to thank God for the grace you see in each member of your family.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: EPHESIANS 2:11-18

Once we were far away, but through the blood of Christ we have been brought near. That is the gospel! Paul also refers back to the gospel when he tells us in Ephesians 2:5 that God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Jesus died on the cross for sinners – His enemies.

We were objects of God's wrath, but Jesus received the wrath of the Father in order that we, who deserved death, might be made alive in Christ! It is the work of Christ that saves us. This removes all boasting. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves perfect. We can only accept the perfect work of Jesus on the cross. As a result, it is not right to boast in our salvation, except in what Christ has done.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did God do to bring near to Himself those who were far off? (He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins that we might be reconciled to God.)

Who are the two groups of people Paul tells us were both brought near through the cross? (Paul is talking about the circumcised [Jews] and the uncircumcised [Gentiles]. There is only one way of salvation through Jesus Christ for all men, both Jew and Gentile.)

PRAY:

Thank God for making a way for us to be brought near to God.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: EPHESIANS 2:19-22

Those who are saved are the temple of God. Since all men who are saved receive the Spirit of God, we are all members of the same family of God. We call that family the church. Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and all together we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, God dwelt in a temple made by human hands, where only the high priest had access to the presence of God. Now, all Christians, both Jew and Gentile, are filled with the Spirit of God like living stones built into a spiritual house (see 1 Peter 2:5).

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do all Christians together form? (We form God's holy temple, where the Holy Spirit lives. He lives in each believer and together as a whole all those who have been saved make up the temple of God.)

What do we call this temple? (We call it the church. We often refer to the building we meet in as the church. It would be more accurate to say that it is the church building, because the church itself is the people inside.)

Are all Christians related to one another? (Yes, we are all God's children. When we are saved, we become a part of God's household. That is why Christians call each other brothers and sisters in Christ.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would touch the lives of each member of your family that they might become members of God's family.



FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: ISAIAH 53:6

Isaiah announces that we all have turned to our own way. All men are sinners, having rejected God and rebelled against Him. Isaiah doesn't say that some have turned away. Nor does he say that many have turned away. Isaiah tells us that each of us has turned to his own way. Paul says it like this: "All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts" (Ephesians 2:3). Isaiah doesn't leave us hopeless in our sin, though. In Isaiah 53:6b, we read the good news: "The Lord laid on Him the iniquity (the sin) of us all." Jesus took the punishment for all of us who turned away. that we might be "brought near through the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does Isaiah's prophecy match what Paul is telling the Ephesians in Ephesians 2? (Isaiah is saying that all have turned away from God. Paul tells us that all are dead in their sins, following thier own desires. Isaiah tells us that we are saved by God's plan to punish Jesus in our place. Paul tells us that we were saved by the blood of Jesus.)

What does Scripture mean when it says the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all? (Jesus took all our sins upon Himself and received the wrath of God, the punishment for our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.")

PRAY:

Thank God that He did not judge us when we went our own way, instead sending Jesus to die in our place.