

Connect Group Discussion Guide

PARTICIPANT
EPHESIANS - PT 3
9/27/2026

SERMON SUMMARY

Today's verses begin with us in a dire situation. We are dead, following the natural course of things, with no hope of resisting our passions or escaping wrath.

Then there is the iconic **"But God"** moment. Everything past that is full of hope, resurrection, and being shown grace, kindness, and mercy.

While works do not get us to grace, kindness, and mercy, they flow out of it in a path of good things in which we can walk every day. What once was far off is now brought near by the blood of Christ.

READ THE PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:1-13 in ESV

Read the passage in the ESV twice, and have people take note of the main point they think Paul is wanting them to understand from this text. Then see how people's readings differ or overlap. This is a great opportunity to talk about lenses--how different people might see different things, but we are all one in Christ.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Remember that your Group Leader and Connect group is here to support you every step of the way.
- Before you read scripture, pray a short prayer asking God's Spirit to help you understand what He wants you to receive from His Word. It is His breath that brings life and opens our minds and hearts to spiritual truth.
- Ask "Holy Spirit, help me/us understand Your word."

ENGAGE WITH THE PASSAGE

1. In verses 1-3, we see what death looks like before Christ brings life. What do these verses say about that? What shapes and influences our lives apart from Christ?
2. What is a "But God" moment you've experienced, when God stepped into a situation that seemed hopeless or settled and brought about something you could never have done?
3. How does this passage overlap with 2 Peter 2:4-12? What are some similarities and differences between the two passages?
4. Ephesians 2:9 emphasizes that grace saves through faith, not "works, so that no one may boast." How does grace eliminate boasting and the burden of pride?
5. How can you walk in good works without becoming prey to pride and boasting?

NEXT STEPS

As you consider your next step, reflect on:

- 1) How have I expressed or repressed the things God has done in my life?
- 2) What good works will I walk in this week?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Ephesians 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

PRACTICE

Last week, we looked at timelines, asking for prayers for our current context, the future, and the future far past our own lifespans. Ask your group how that exercise went. What prayers have stayed with you through the week? What prayers need to make a comeback?

For this week, make a list of seemingly impossible situations you're encountering. Someone who will never listen, something too big for you to handle, etc. Then draw a line down the center of the page. Write in big letters BUT GOD. Now ask Him to handle each one of those things. Set the paper aside and see what He does in His timing.