

## Small Group Material - Ephesians

# Transformed by Grace

### Ephesians 2. 1-22

**Welcome** (10 mins) Is there a gift you have received which felt very special? What made it so special for you?

**Worship** (10 mins)

**Recap:** *Paul encourages us to climb a mountain top and take in the breathtaking view that Jesus Christ offers us. He breaks down the wall between God and humanity. He subdues cosmic powers. He creates a church, God's new society of love and unity on earth. He reaches back into the past and into the future showing us how Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection calls us to be reconciled to God and each other. It's an amazing letter.*

*Last week we looked at some of the wonderful results of being adopted into his family.. This week, we explore the changes which Jesus wants to bring into our lives and the future he has in store. Every bit of it because of Jesus and God's grace.*

Invite people to worship Jesus as you play: Come thou fount of every blessing, sung here by Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hZnAIMCKY8>

Spend a few minutes together in praise and thanks to Jesus.

**Word** (30 mins) *Leader: Beforehand, work out where you want to spend time - and what parts to skip over. Make sure you do section C!*

**A Read ch 2.1-10**

In this passage Paul divides a Christian's life into two periods. What were they and who controls us in the first period? What were the results? (V1-3)

If we are dead because of our sin, how are we made alive, v4-5?

What is the relationship between grace and good works?

**For reflection**, what has God's grace meant to you in your life and what 'good work' do you sense God might have in store for you? Today's society finds it very hard to relate to some of the words we use as Christians, eg 'sin', 'grace'. What other words do people find difficult? Can you think of other ways to describe these concepts which might be understood better?

*(Leader's note: Instead of the word sin, we could use the words 'selfishness' and 'independence' to describe our human attitudes. CS Lewis used the word 'surrender' describing 'repentance'.)*

If some of the greatest inner cries in today's society are for identity and significance, what can we say in response (based on this passage)?

**B Read v11-22**

What dividing wall in our world would you like to see come down?

v11-12. Before Jesus came what problems did the Gentiles face? How do you think the practicing Jews felt when these Gentiles started coming to their church but didn't want to adopt Jewish customs eg circumcision?

**For reflection and discussion:** how would a person of a different background be accepted in your church? What relationship in your life do you need to let Christ 'knock down walls' and do a work of reconciliation?

**C Read v19-22 again.** Give people a moment to ponder on it. Is there any phrase which particularly catches your eye? Give time to share and catch a glimpse together of this glorious picture.

You could then read the passage again. Perhaps, get different people to read each phrase or 2 people taking alternate phrases building to a climax in v.22

**Witness**

Pray for Alpha - launch date Mon 26th April at 7.30pm over Zoom. We're praying for 30 guests.

Pray for the church opening again for worship services on Sundays and Thursdays this coming Sunday.