

Life Group Bible Study

Ministry Year Theme: "Jump In!"

Series: Let's Go Swimming in Ephesians

Message: God's Workmanship

Week of Sunday, January 19, 2020

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body [flesh] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind [like the rest] 4 But [And] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- 1) Opening. [Note to leaders: choose one of these or make up an opening that fits your group.]
 - a. Who is someone who matters to you? Why do they matter?
 - b. What is something that you like to make? How do you feel about what you make or create?
 - c. When have you experienced God's love for you in a personal way?

- 2) Scripture.
 - a. Read Ephesians 2:1-10
 - i. Paul is writing to followers of Jesus. How does Paul describe them in verses 1-3?
 - ii. According to verses 4-6, what has God done?
 1. What do you think it means to be made "alive together with Christ?"
 2. The words "saved," "raised ... up" and "seated us with him" are all in the past tense. Notice these terms are not in the future tense (e.g. he will save us or he will raise us up, etc.). What is the significance of using the past tense?
 3. When you think about your life and identity as a follower of Jesus, do you think that your participation in God's Kingdom has already begun or do you think it will be at some future time?
 - b. Please re-read verses 8-10.
 - i. What strikes you personally about these verses?
 - ii. Sunday's message talked about God's plan, revealed in these verses and also in John 3:16-17 and Luke 2:11. Why do you think God is so interested in saving the world and saving people?

- iii. How does verse 10 refer to us (people) in relationship to God? What do other versions of the Bible use for the word “workmanship” or “handiwork?”
 - 1. In the original language (Greek), this word is “poiema” which means workmanship, creation or what has been made.
 - c. One of the key ideas from Sunday’s message was “you matter to God.”
 - i. In Ephesians 2:1-10, what words or phrases indicate that you matter to God?
- 3) Our Lives.
 - a. How do people in our culture derive a sense of meaning? What tells people that they matter?
 - i. [Note to leaders: sometimes, we can discover the source for why we matter, when that source or thing is taken away. For example, the person who derives meaning from their career may become lost, disoriented or angry when they lose their job because they feel like they no longer matter.]
 - b. Do you feel like you matter? Why or why not?
 - c. Do you feel like you matter to God? Please share as honestly as you are able to or willing to.
 - d. Perhaps there is someone in your life who needs to hear or remember that they matter. They matter to you and they matter to God.
 - i. Who can you encourage this week and remind them that they matter?
 - ii. Who do you need to remind that they are God’s handiwork / workmanship?
 - e. What could you do to help remind yourself that you matter to God?
- 4) Pray for one another, tell each other that you matter, even if it feels a bit awkward or uncomfortable and take care of each other in your life group!
- 5) Jump In - Your Discipleship Relationship.
 - a. Check in with the person you are discipling or who is discipling you.
 - b. Remind them that they matter to you, and that they matter to God.
 - i. Be as specific as you can in telling them why they matter to you and to God.
 - c. Spend time reading Ephesians 2:8-10 together.
 - i. Discuss what is most significant for each of you about these few verses.