



WEEK 2

Dead, Alive, and Sent

Ephesians 2–3

Check-in: *Last week's Next Step: Did you re-read Ephesians 1:3–14 and circle "in Christ"? What did you notice?*

Have you ever been an outsider (new to a school, a team, a group) and then been fully included? What made the difference?

Read Ephesians 2:1–10: read aloud together

Paul opens with "you were dead." That's a strong diagnosis. What does it tell you about the human condition before God steps in?

Find the words "But God" in verse 4. What had Paul just described before those two words? Why does that contrast matter?

Leader Note: *The phrase "But God" is one of the most dramatic pivots in the Bible. Paul has just described total spiritual death — no ability to respond, no hope, no way out. And then: but God. The rescue had to be complete because the problem was complete. Grace isn't God giving us a hand up — it's God raising a corpse.*

Read Ephesians 2:11–22: read aloud together

Paul describes a literal wall in the Jerusalem Temple that separated Jews from Gentiles — Gentiles who crossed it could be killed. Christ demolished it. What walls exist in your community, your school, or even this group that the gospel is supposed to tear down?

Paul says the church is now the Temple, the place where God's presence lives on earth. What does that mean for you? What does it make this group feel like? What does it say about how we should act?

Read Ephesians 3:1–13

Paul calls himself "the least deserving of all God's people." He means it he used to persecute Christians. What makes that kind of honesty possible? What would it take to hold your own accomplishments that loosely?



Read **Ephesians 3:14–21**

Paul prays that his readers would be "filled with all the fullness of God." That's an almost impossible -sounding prayer. What does it tell you about prayer that he asks for it anyway?

He says you can only understand the love of Christ "together with all of God's people" not alone. Who do you need around you to understand God better than you can by yourself?

Next Step: This week, pray Paul's prayer from Ephesians 3:16–19 over someone in this group. Write their name down right now and pray it for them every day this week.

