

Week 04 Small group

Alive for His purpose

TRANSFORMED LIFE

WEEK FOUR – ALIVE FOR HIS PURPOSE

'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

WELCOME

Share together any experiences you have of being rescued from a situation.

Check out how the group got on memorising the verse from last week.

Is there anything anyone wants to share on reflection of last week's study?

Pray for God to show us through this session more about the reason why we are alive.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Our life before Christ

'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work amongst those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath.' (Ephesians 2:1-3)

How we were made alive and seated with Christ

'But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ, even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace we have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no-one can boast.' (2:4-9)

Our new life in Christ

'For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (2:10)

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WORD

What descriptive ways does Paul, in verses 1–3, express life before Christ? How do you relate your life experience to this?

Some examples might be: feeling dead in your sins, following the ways of this world, following cravings, desires and thoughts that aren't good.

From verses 4–9, what do we learn about God?

What has God done for us? (*Made us alive, raised us up, seated us, made us all 'in Christ'.*)

What is He like? (*His great love, His grace, His kindness.*)

Think of a time when your viewpoint has changed and you've seen things differently as a result. Read together verse 6, 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.'

Share together what living from this new vantage point can mean practically in our lives.

How do we pray differently because we are seated in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus?

PRAYER

Consider areas that you want to take authority in prayer over right now. Talk about them with the group first and then pray together in twos and threes.

WORSHIP

Give time for group members to personally share their story of:

- Their life in Christ
- How they came to Christ

Afterwards, give thanks to God for His work of transforming lives, by the power of His love!

WITNESS AND ACTION STEPS

Take some time to think about and write out your own story of how God has changed your life. Think about what you were like before you became a Christian, what happened when you became a Christian and in what way being a Christian has impacted you.

In twos or threes pray together and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your story with someone this week and for the boldness and confidence to make the most of it.

Revisit the list of declarations on Day 50 under Section 1, 'Identity'.