



**Connect:** *Find out how everyone is doing; this will give you an opportunity to better know how to encourage and minister to each other.*

- ◆ If your group has guests or new members take some time to make sure everyone knows each other.
- ◆ What has been a high and low point in everyone's life in the last week?

### **Background**

- ◆ In Ephesians chapter 1 Paul wrote about the plans of God that will culminate in the headship of Christ. In Ephesians 2:1-10 we see how God will accomplish his plans beginning with salvation.

### **Grow**

- ◆ **The Problem:** Read Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)
  - ☞ What is the kingdom of the air?
  - ☞ Who is the ruler of the kingdom of the air? (*Hint: it's not God! see I John 5:19*)
  - ☞ What is the significance of the reality that Satan is the ruler of this world?
  - ☞ We flee from sin because we 'invite' the ruler of the kingdom of the air into our life through disobedience/sin. Are there some sins that you easily avoid while others that just seem to overcome you? Why is that?
  - ☞ Read James 5:16. What would happen if we did what is described in James 5:16? How might this help us encourage each other to flee from the disobedient cravings that Satan tempts each of us with? Would we be willing to do what James 5:16 describes? Why or why not?

◆ **The Solution:** Read Ephesians 2:4-9

*Don't get caught up in a conversation about the role of works and/or faith in salvation at this point in this passage because, if you do, the point of this passage and the application into the hearts and lives of each person in the group will be missed!*

- The events of verses 4-9 is an epic tale of heroic rescue based upon love. Who rescued us? What were we rescued from? Why were we rescued?
- Is it possible that a person that had difficulty believing God really loved them would begin to try to 'earn' their salvation through what they did? What would be the problem with trying to earn your salvation instead of recognizing the gift of loving grace that it is? What kind of life would an attitude of earning your salvation produce?
- Did we deserve to be rescued? Are there ever times that you don't believe that you deserve to be rescued? If so, why?
- What is most striking to you about what God has done for us as is described in Ephesians 2:4-9?

◆ **The Product:** Read Ephesians 2:10

- God saved us through his grace and mercy because of his great love for us. Why is his expectation for us to do good works instead of trying to earn our salvation?
- What good works has God prepared for you to do? Go around the circle and have/help each person identify what good works God has prepared for that person to do.
- How has your life and the lives of those around you been impacted by the good works that God has led you to be able to do?

**Prayer:**

- ◆ Spend a few moments having your group's prayer coordinator gather prayer requests from your group.
- ◆ Lift up your group's prayer requests and ask God to help us to live a life that reflects what he has done for us. *Consider inviting each person in the group to pray.*

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