



Week #2: Made for Good Plans

Series Theme Verse:

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² 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. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ 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.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

- Sin is working _____. (vv. 1-3)
- Grace is working _____. (vv. 4-9)
- God is working _____ so he can do good works _____. (v. 10)

Discussion questions:

1. When you recognize that grace—not effort—is what saves you, how does that reshape the way you view your relationship with God and others?
2. In what ways have you experienced God “working in you” to transform your character or purpose? How might those changes prepare you to join God in His “good works”?
3. Where do you sense sin or self-reliance still working against God’s grace in your life? What practices could help you stay grounded in the truth that you are God’s handiwork, created for good?

Recommended Resources:

- [The Bible Project: Ephesians Overview](#)
- [Grace is Greater](#), by Kyle Idleman
- [The Vision of Ephesians](#), by N.T. Wright
- [Life Lessons from Ephesians: Where You Belong](#), by Max Lucado
- [Ephesians](#), by N.T. Wright

(NIV) New International Version

(MSG) The Message

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Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

- Sin is working against us. (vv. 1-3)
- Grace is working for us. (vv. 4-9)
- God is working in us so he can do good works through us. (v. 10)

Discussion questions:

1. When you recognize that grace—not effort—is what saves you, how does that reshape the way you view your relationship with God and others?
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