

April 19 Discussion Questions

“Created on Purpose”

Ephesians 2:1-10

Review

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

Fueled by the Gospel

- We deserved **Death** and **Hell** (v. 1-3)
- God gave us **Life** and **Heaven** in Christ (v. 4-6)

Formed by the Master

- He intentionally **Created** us as we are (v. 10)
- He relationally **Connected** us in the Church to multiply our impact (v. 10, 14-15,21-22)
- He supernaturally **Commissions** us for specific tasks (v. 10)

What is your S.H.A.P.E.?

Spiritual Gifts:

Heart / Passion:

Abilities:

Personality:

Experiences:

We give **Everything** we are in service to Him

Connect

1. Describe your church upbringing. Did you grow up in the church? Were your parents believers? Was there more of a perceived emphasis on grace or works?
2. How would you define the difference between religion and Christianity?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Discuss

3. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on God's promises, but the last three chapters focus on God's commands. Why is it important that God's commands follow God's promises?
4. In Ephesians 2:1-3, how does Paul describe an unbeliever?
5. How is it that we are saved? Why do we struggle with being saved by grace alone through faith alone?
6. What happens when someone begins to bleed works into their right-standing with God? (see v.9)
7. Paul starts by addressing the bad news in v.1-3 before explaining the good news in v.4-10. Should this same approach be applied to our evangelism? Should we be as bleak as Paul when describing an unbeliever?
8. How can we understand a healthy relationship to work that is based in God's grace?
9. Pastor Darin used the phrase, "Apply the gospel." What does that mean? Why is it so important?

Apply

10. What does it look like for you to apply the gospel at work? In what way(s) is it challenging?
11. To what degree do you struggle with a healthy relationship between God's grace and your work?
12. We all subtly or significantly want the praise and acceptance of parents, friends, bosses, and the general public. How can you fight this distracting desire with the truth from this passage?
13. Since you are God's workmanship, He has crafted you with unique giftings for work. What giftings or abilities do you possess? How have you or can you use them to advance the gospel?
14. How is God most calling you to respond to the truth in this passage?

Pray

15. Pray for God to help you understand how He has crafted you for ministry and to find ways to express your gifts to advance the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus from Prayer Team

Personal: Pray for wisdom to know how God wants you to use your spiritual gifts, natural abilities and life experiences to impact Christ's Kingdom. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Ministry: Pray for educators, students and parents as they continue to navigate e-learning during this pandemic crisis.

The “How can I pray for you?” Challenge

The challenge for each person in your community group for the next two weeks is to ask this question to at least one person. I have found many of my neighbors are outside during this season. I often ask them how they are doing and what they think of this pandemic. I asked one of them a few days ago how I could be praying for them. You could also text a friend or coworker the question. It could even be some entirely random at the grocery store! The second challenge would be to ask permission to pray with them for that very thing right there!

How can I implement this in my group?

The goal is for you to pose the question to your groups this week. Encourage your group by text midweek to remember the challenge! Then follow up for the next two weeks during your meeting time to discuss how the challenge went. You can ask these questions:

1. *Who did you ask the question to?*
2. *What did they ask prayer for?*
3. *Were you able to pray with them right then?*
4. *Do you sense they are open to the gospel?*
5. *Do you intend to continue the spiritual conversation? How so?*
6. *If you didn't ask the question to someone, why was this the case?*