

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **August 7, 2022** Family Theme | **Saved by Grace**
Study Text | **Ephesians 2:1-22**

Objective: Family members rejoice in God's gift of salvation and do the good works He has prepared for them to do.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 or 62. In this section of the letter, Paul explained the key truth that all people can be saved by grace through faith in Christ, and not by works.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is mankind's relationship with God apart from Christ? Answer:** All human beings are made in the image of God. However, because of Adam's fall into sin, all are born with a sinful nature, are guilty before God, and are spiritually separated from Him (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Read the Word: Ephesians 2:1-22

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with family members how all people are spiritually dead and separated from God until they trust in Christ for salvation, how we cannot earn salvation by doing good works, how God has prepared good works for us to do *after* we are saved, and how all believers are part of God's household.



Key Truth: All People Are Spiritually Dead Apart From Christ (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Verses 1-3 focus on the common spiritual plight of all unbelievers — they are dead in sin and transgression. The spiritual vitality of unbelievers is that of a dead person. Sin is the pattern of life for unbelievers. They follow the ways of the world. They follow a leader, a ruler, Satan himself. Everyone seeks to please their sinful nature with its ungodly desires and ways of thinking. We all, by nature, deserve God's wrath, but God loved us so much that He sent His Son to save us. We were slaves to sin until God redeemed us from it.



Key Truth: People Are Saved By Grace Through Faith in Christ and Are Given Divine Purpose (Ephesians 2:4-10)

We were completely unsuitable to know God and be part of His plan (verses 1-3), but God's love and mercy did their work. God made us spiritually alive in Christ. He also raised us from spiritual death and seated us with Christ in Heaven through union with Him. That is our position in Christ, even though we do not yet fully experience or realize that position. God determined to use His kindness to us in Christ to display just how rich His grace is. Good works have a place in the life of a Christian — not in becoming right with God, but as a result of being right with God. Our joy at such deliverance should motivate us to do the good works God has prepared for us to do just because we want to please Him.



Key Truth: Key Truth: All Who Trust in Christ Are United as Part of God's Household (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Paul then reminded the Gentile Ephesian believers that they used to be aliens and foreigners to God and His people. They did not have the Scriptures or the promises of God. The expected Messiah was not considered to be theirs. They were therefore without hope and without God. Yet God brought the estranged Gentiles close to Himself through the blood of Christ. Christ is our peace. He removed the old Jew-Gentile division and made them one, new persons. All now have access to God the Father and are part of His household. The Holy Spirit is building up all believers into the new temple, the body of Christ.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What was our spiritual condition before we trusted Christ for salvation?
- **What does it mean that we are saved by grace through faith?**
- What role do good works play in our lives as Christians?
- How should our unity in Christ affect our relationships with all believers?
- For what blessings will you praise and thank God this week?
- What will you do this week to fulfill the purpose God has for you?
- How do you need to demonstrate unity with another believer this week?
- **How can you have an attitude of gratitude towards God's grace this week?**

Everyday Extras

We are **saved by grace** (Ephesians 2:8–9). We cannot save ourselves; only by God's gift of grace can we be part of His family. Offer your children a wonderful prize (like an ice cream cone or a bike riding adventure) when they complete all three of these tasks: doing 66 jumping jacks while saying the books of the Bible backwards; walking 30 steps while balancing three books on their heads, blindfolded; and hopping with a ball between their knees from the backyard to the front yard without dropping or touching the ball. They will soon realize the tasks are too hard for them. Step in with grace — giving the prize anyway — to help them understand God's grace is not earned or deserved. It is a wonderful gift!

From a door frame, suspend pieces of paper with holes of varying sizes cut out of them. Have a paper airplane contest to see if your children can fly their planes through the holes. You can award varying points for more difficult holes, if you want to. Put up another target with an impossibly small hole. After the children realize their planes could never succeed in flying through it, remind them of the truth that our accomplishments and abilities cannot make us right with God; only grace allows us to become part of His family.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the believers in Ephesus were having trouble getting along with each other. Paul wrote in his letter for them to treat each other nicely, be patient with one another, be truthful, and have self-control. As part of God's family, we should do those same things. **I Can Obey God's Word** and live in ways that honor and please Him.