

EPHESIANS

GOD'S WISDOM ON DISPLAY

WEEK FOUR – ALIVE FOR PURPOSE

"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)

WELCOME - involve everyone, introduce new people, mention absences

Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving. Use an 'open/general' question topic related that engages everyone

- 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.

WORD – ask key question related to the topic

Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don't worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone

Questions

- 1) In groups - try retelling the verses in your own words. Maybe split it into three sections: verses 1 - 3, verses 4 - 7 and verses 8 - 10.
- 2) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 3) What do these verses teach us about people?
- 4) What do I need to obey? What is it calling me to obey?
- 5) Who can I share it with?

Additional Questions

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.)
- 8) 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?

WORSHIP

Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let's read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let's listen to this song, let's sing now, let's have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts! **BREAK BREAD***

REGULARLY*

- > Encourage prayers of thanks to God for His faithfulness.
- > Introduce worship with scripture, exhortation and encouragement as to HOW to participate
- > If you do songs;
 - provide lyrics so new people are not awkward/unknown songs are not unhelpful
 - Try to avoid videos with adverts

MEMORY VERSE – get creative!

'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)

(EG: Have the verse as individual words cut out in an envelope. Get the group to put them in the right order.)

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 two's and three's.

- > Encourage spiritual gifts (e.g. prophecy)
- > Commit to pray for each other through the week

ACTION STEPS

Turn to the action steps at the end of week one of the devotional and ask people to take time in the week to consider them.

Take some time to reflect with God. Are there new things He is leading you to explore? During the week find a trusted friend to talk these things through with.

DELEGATE

Who will do what next week?