

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

September 11, 2022

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church

What is a Disciple?

A Disciple is Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:1-10



Big Idea

Though I Deserve God's Wrath, His Gift of Grace in Christ, Calls Me to Disciple Making Work!

1. If you are not a disciple, your human nature is deserving of God's wrath.
2. The love of God has revealed his grace in Christ Jesus.
3. Disciples accept God's gift of mercy, not by works, but to do works.

Introduction

Share an example of a situation where there was a reversal or great change of direction or course (it could be a significant event or something minor). What contributed to it or caused it? Was it a surprise? Why or why not?

Bible Study Questions

Have someone read Ephesians 2:1-10.

How does verse 1 describe those without Christ? What is the implication of this? What does it look like in our context? (Identify at least 3 descriptions in verse 2 and relate what they might look like around us today).

Who all does Paul include in this group in verse 3? How does Paul describe our lives? What do we deserve? Why (feel free to use other scripture)? What does Paul mean by "wrath?"

Circle the two words that mark the great reversal in this passage (see verse 5 and verse 1). Why is this picture a good illustration of salvation? What prompts the reversal (vs 4)? What do we learn about God from verse 4 in light of verse 3?

What is unique about God's mercy that prompts the use of the word "*grace*" (vs 4 – also see Romans 5:6-10). What does this teach us about God?

What does it mean that "*God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus*" (vs 6)? What is God's overarching purpose in this (vs 7)? How might we be tempted to distract from this (vs 9)? How does this relate to our (PEFC) mission statement?

Who does this passage make clear is the object of our faith? What are some clues it gives us?

What do verses 8-10 teach us about the role of "works" in God's plan for our salvation? What are some examples of "*good works which God prepared in advance for us to do*" (vs 10)?

Next Steps

Think about what your life looked like as “dead” in sin, verses now as “alive” in Christ.

Identify some “*good works*” that God has prepared for you today and how you can do them.

Use this passage to share the Gospel with someone this week.

Prayer

Thank God for his mercy and grace that brought us from being dead to alive! Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.