

## RECAP

**Which concept did you lean into this week from the sermon last weekend?:**

Enter into Christ, Engage as Children, Embrace the Family, or Extend the Blessing

**How did God meet you as you participated in whatever that looked like for your life?**

## IDEA 1

We all love a good before and after picture! This concept is something we see in Ephesians 2:

- 1-10 is the before and after of our new life individually
- 11-22 is the before and after of the Gentiles - our new life corporately which forms a global multi ethnic family of faith

**What is the “before and after” people see when they look at your life? At the life of the Church?**

This “before and after” message is first and foremost a message of salvation. **Have you accepted this free gift of grace? If not, talk to your Life Group leader or reach out to the church as we would love to have a conversation with you.**

This “before and after” message is a message of humility. You can’t take credit for this. This is not something you earned or deserved—we can’t boast in it. **What does confident humility look like?**

## IDEA 2

Ephesians 2:9 (NIV) says, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.” Dallas Willard

**What could it look like for our “work” to flow not out of an attempt to earn favor, prove ourselves, or impress others, but out of a deeply rooted belief that God has given us a deep and abiding purpose to guide our everyday lives?**

**EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER****Group Devotional Reading**

As you finish your discussion on the sermon, take some time to read Ephesians 2:1-10 out loud. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

If you would like to engage with this passage in a deeper way throughout the week, you could use the [Weekly Audio Reflection](#) on our website.

**PRACTICE THIS WEEK**

This “before and after” message is a message of “work” - living, serving, being - born out of grace, new life, and new purpose. Remember, you do not work FOR God’s favor, you work FROM God’s favor.

**How could you step out in the good things God has planned for you this week?**

**Ask Holy Spirit to help you with this.**