

## Scripture and Background Information for October 27- November 2 *Made for More*

During this series, beginning October 20, we will look through the book of Ephesians. We'll discover that although our childhood desire to be significant or important may have been misplaced, it was never intended to be *replaced*. Far from just the immature dream of a childlike mind, your Life, purpose, and significance may be *bigger* and *nearer* than you ever dreamed.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page.

Remember to pick up your updated **Discussion Guide**, an adaptation of the original format. The adaptation includes special instructions if the passage is 10 verses or longer. In the **GOD'S WORDS** section, you will be copying the scripture "word for word". In the **MY WORDS** section, you will be paraphrasing the scripture in your own words. You can pick up copies of the new version in the Next Steps Center or from your leader.

### **Background for Ephesians 2:4-10**

Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are indescribably rich in Jesus Christ but are not realizing their full potential in Christ. In many ways, they are living in spiritual poverty when they have the ability to live as those with amazing wealth. Paul describes this small church's wealth by reminding them of their adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, life, grace, citizenship, and every spiritual blessing. As Paul describes these benefits given to the believer, he instructs them in how to live out their full potential.

In Ephesians 2:4-10, Paul highlights some of the blessings given to the Ephesians in Christ. As they look toward the good things that God has created them to do, they are reminded, inspired, and mobilized by God's overflowing grace toward them. Out of abundance, we are reminded that God has created us as a masterpiece to do good works.

#### Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

November 3

Ephesians 3:16-21

November 10

Ephesians 4:11-16

**BONUS!** On page two, we are providing a tool for practically engaging the truths presented in the scriptures. Please use this tool yourself, and we encourage you to discuss it with your Community Group.



## **Pursuing your PURPOSE**

*“We are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” Ephesians 2:10*

**God’s design for your life can become clearer as you explore different parts of your life and your story. The answer to one or more of the following questions may be what God uses to help you uncover unique ways that you are made to make a difference in the world!**

**Take time to respond to these questions, then talk to your Community Group, or other friends about what your answers may reveal.**

**•Passions – What issues or people touch your heart?**

What needs or situations move you to action?

What stories in the news inspire or challenge you?

**•Pastimes – What hobbies and interests could you share?**

Is there something you enjoy doing that you could do for others, or with them?

Is there something that you could offer to teach to someone else?

**•Past –What life experiences have formed you and may allow you to serve the others?**

Are there painful experiences that give you empathy or expertise in helping others?

Are there meaningful positive experiences that you could bring to others?

**•Profession –What job skills could you use to serve, or could you teach to someone else?**

Do you have a professional skill that could be utilized beyond your workplace?

Could you use your influence to help someone who is unemployed or under-employed?

**•Proximity –Where do you find yourself near people with needs God may want to meet?**

Who are the people that live near you, and what are their spiritual or physical needs?

What are places you frequent, where you tend to see the same people over and over?

**What is one step that you can take this week to pursue your purpose?**