

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF MAY 17, 2009

**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS**  
**And You...But God**

"In answer to your inquiry, I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell."

**-General William Booth**

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

**John 3:3-7**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXT**  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE**

1 Pet 1:2; Phil 2:12-13; Rom 3 & 6; John 3; 1 John

**STUDY GUIDE**

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - The state or condition of natural (unregenerate) man
  - The spiritual reality surrounding those who are disobedient (unregenerate)
  - God's motivation for extending "grace"
  - The nature of salvation
  - The intended function of the people of God
  - The appropriate response of those who are "raised up"
  - The scope of human sinfulness
  - The aspect of time in this passage
  
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- What things do you need to leave behind as the way you "...once walked, following the course of this world"? How do you need to "walk" instead?
- What specifically are you called for and called to (Eph 2:10)? How are you pursuing that calling?
- How have you seen God's kindness and grace most clearly displayed in your life recently?

"The most effective argument for Christianity is still the good lives of those who profess it."  
– A.W. Tozer

## MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 1:17-19

This Week: Eph 2:8-10

## PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church (May):**

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

**In Response to the Text:**

- That we would place behind us our old lives and walk in our new lives
- Rejoicing in our new identity, no longer living as those who are "children of wrath"
- For boldness to speak of this God who is rich in mercy and gives the dead new life in Christ
- For freedom from the inclination to earn our salvation by works. To continually embrace the Gospel of grace
- For power in living the lives that God has prepared in advance for us to live
- For our friends and family who do not yet live in the freedom of God's forgiveness. That we would be kind enough to tell them of it and that they would be humble enough to receive it.

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Desiring God*– John Piper
- *Religious Affections*– Jonathan Edwards
- *How Now Shall We Live?* – Charles Colson
- *Waking the Dead*– John Eldredge
- *Transforming Grace*– Jerry Bridges
- *What's So Amazing About Grace?*– Phillip Yancey

## NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 2:11-22