

God's Initiative And Our Belief in Him

Touching Base – What's going on in our lives ... any highs or lows?

Reflecting – What have you thought about, applied to your life, or shared with others from our last discussion?

Today's Topic – Read the passage from the Bible and let's retell it in our own words.

John 1:12

¹But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 3:16

¹⁶For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Discussion Questions

1. What do these passages tell us about God?
2. What do these passages tell us about people?
3. What else did you learn from this passage?
4. If you believed this was true, what could be the benefits and how might you apply it to your life?
5. What about these passages could you share with someone else, and who might that be?