

**GOD'S SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE
EPHESIANS 2 – 3**

*Chi Alpha
Lifegroup Guide
Ephesians*

LESSON PREP

As you prepare for this week's lesson think about the people who feel like outcasts and that they don't fit in (maybe even yourself). Be ready to share how Jesus welcomes all people.

PRE LG TEXT

MESSAGE QUESTIONS

Who are the outsiders in your life? How can they be welcomed?

**SCRIPTURE
MEMORIZATION**

Ephesians 3:17-18

1ON1 FOLLOW UP

How did you feel welcomed by Christian community?

How can you be someone who welcomes and loves those who may be considered outsiders?

OVERVIEW

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of Ephesians: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>

INTRODUCTION

Paul continues his prayer begun in Ephesians 1. As was studied before, the Christian's identity is found in Jesus Christ's death on the cross. Through here we are adopted into the family of God and we identify as Christ's followers before anything else. But who was this salvation available for? The Jews (God's chosen people)? The Gentiles (anyone not a Jew)? Here Paul tells us the great mystery of faith he referred to in chapter 1 – that salvation has come for everyone Jew and Gentile alike. This promise still rings true today.

Read Ephesians 2 – 3:6

1. We are all separated from God (2: 1 - 10)

- Paul begins by reminding us that we all lived according to the flesh at one time – why is this important for us to remember?
- In the same line of thinking: what does it mean when Paul says that it is by grace through faith that we have been saved?
- How do you stay humble and remember that you are nothing without God?

2. Gentiles vs Jews (2: 14 – 3: 6)

- Paul separates two groups of people: circumcised and uncircumcised? – Are you familiar with who these people are?
 - Jews – circumcised – they performed circumcision as an act of sealing their covenant with God (agreeing to be His people and call Him their God)
 - Gentiles – uncircumcised – anyone not a Jew – not part of the nation of Israel/God's people.
- What did Christ do for the Jews and Gentiles?
- What does this say about how the Church looks at outsiders today?

Read Ephesians 3: 7 - 20

3. God's Promises to the People and our responsibility

- What did Paul say was the purpose in the grace that he was given?
- What message did he bring them? – we can go confidently to God, how long wide, and deep God's love is
- Do you go to people who do not know Jesus and share with them the same way that Paul shares with his hearers?
- Who in your life needs to know of God's immeasurable power?

APPLICATION

Find someone who needs hope (there are so many people who need encouragement!) and share what gives you hope.

