

1. Dead in our trespasses and sins

- a) Ephesians 2:1-3 How does the Apostle Paul describe the human condition without Jesus?
- b) How does “the prince of the power of the air” seek to bring us under his domination and lead us to spiritual and eternal death? Genesis 3:1-4, Matthew 4:3, John 8:44, etc.
- c) Why are those dead in trespasses and sins described as “by nature children of wrath”? Compare Ephesians 2:3 with 5:6
- d) Who can relate to Paul’s description of people under Satan’s dominion, trying to find meaning by gratifying the desires of the flesh?

2. God’s rescue plan

- a) Ephesians 2:1 What did God accomplish for us even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins?
- b) Why did God initiate this rescue plan? Ephesians 2:4
- c) How did God accomplish His rescue plan? Ephesians 2:5-7
- d) Where else in the Scriptures can we find a description of God’s rescue plan? John 3:16, Romans 6:23, Colossians 1:13-14, etc.
- e) Share a time when you were dead in your trespasses and sins. How did Jesus rescue you?
- f) Is the promise of being seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places a future hope or a present reality? Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1-3

- g) What are your thoughts about God’s loving and merciful rescue plan?

3. Rejoicing in God’s grace

- a) What expression is repeated in Ephesians 2:5,8?
- b) What does the word “grace” mean to you?
- c) How do we accept God’s gracious gift, rescuing us from spiritual and eternal death? Ephesians 2:8
- d) Is faith also a gift of our loving and merciful God? Support your answer from the Bible. Romans 12:3
- e) When did you decide to accept God’s gracious gift of salvation?
- f) What evidence do you find in this portion of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that God’s rescue plan brings both present and eternal blessings? Ephesians 2:4-7 (See also John 10:10, Romans 6:23)

4. God’s rescue plan, not ours

- a) Ephesians 2:9 Why is it important to remember that we cannot engineer our own rescue plan?
- b) What is our response when we accept the gift of God’s mercy and grace? Ephesians 2:10, 4:1-3
- c) What promises of God’s Word assure us that it is possible for us to “walk worthy of the calling”?

