

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of February 8, 2015

Ephesians 2:4-10

NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

NIV (New International Version)

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Connection Questions:

1. When we compare the lives of Mark and Onesimus, we see that they have similarities. How were their backgrounds similar? How were they different?

2. Read Colossians 4:9-10. How were they associated with Paul?

3. Read Acts 13:1-13. What was Mark's role in the mission? What later decision did he make regarding the mission?

4. Read Acts 15:3-4 regarding the report to Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas. How do you think Mark felt when he heard the report? Can you identify with his feelings? If so, how? If not, why not?

5. Read Philemon 18. What had Onesimus done wrong?

6. Onesimus was urged by Paul to do the right thing even if it was painful. Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did you handle it?

7. How did both Mark and Onesimus contribute to the New Testament?

8. What do the stories of Mark and Onesimus teach us about the grace and mercy of God?