



## **Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups**

### **“A New Life”**

**Preached by John Onwuchekwa**

**August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

#### **Summary**

*Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.*

In this sermon, Pastor John Onwuchekwa explores Ephesians 2:1-10, explaining that God doesn't just help us turn over a new leaf but gives us a completely new life. He outlines our natural state as spiritually dead, enslaved to sin, and deserving of God's wrath, making us both helpless and hopeless. However, the good news is that God, rich in mercy and love, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. This salvation is entirely by grace through faith—a gift we simply receive rather than earn through our works. The sermon emphasizes that God knew all our flaws before choosing us, yet loved us anyway, and now calls us to live out our new identity as His masterpiece.

## **Key Passage | Ephesians 2: 4-10**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **Opening Prayer**

*Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own*

**Heavenly Father,**

as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we thank You that even before we knew the severity of our problem, You had already provided the solution. We're grateful that You are more eager to forgive our sins than we ever were to commit them. Open our hearts to receive Your truth today. May Your kindness warm us and draw us closer to You. Help us to be honest about our spiritual condition and humble enough to receive the new life You offer. Guide our conversation and reveal what You want each of us to learn. In Jesus' name, **men.**

## Getting Going

*Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.*

What's the most memorable gift you've ever received, and what made it special to you?

## Discussion Questions

*Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.*

1. Pastor John said, 'A problem well defined is a problem half solved.' How does properly understanding our spiritual condition help us find the right solution?
2. What's the difference between God helping us 'turn over a new leaf' versus God giving us 'a new life'? Why is this distinction important?
3. How does knowing that God loved you fully aware of 'the worst about you' impact how you view His love for you?
4. The sermon mentioned that God doesn't feel about you the way you feel about yourself on your worst day. How might this truth change how you approach God after failing?
5. How might your life look different if you truly embraced that you are 'God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works'?

## **Making It Personal**

*Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life*

This week, take time to identify one area where you've been trying to 'turn over a new leaf' in your own strength. Instead of continuing to strive through willpower alone, acknowledge your helplessness in this area and surrender it completely to God. Write down a prayer specifically asking God to give you new life in this area - new desires, new affections, and new power that comes from Him rather than yourself. Then, spend time each day 'daydreaming' as Pastor John suggested - asking God how He might want to use you as 'a visible and tangible representation of Him in the world.' Look for opportunities to share with others how God has given you new life rather than just helping you try harder

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## **Key Takeaways**

*Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.*

- Our spiritual problem is worse than we think - we are spiritually dead, enslaved to sin, and deserving of God's wrath, making us both helpless and hopeless on our own.
- God doesn't help us turn over a new leaf; He gives us a completely new life through Christ.

- God's salvation comes to us when we are at our worst - He knew all our flaws before choosing us, yet loved us anyway.
- Salvation is entirely by grace through faith - a gift we receive rather than earn through our works.
- As God's masterpiece, we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **Closing Prayer**

*Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.*

**Lord Jesus**, thank You for not just helping us turn over new leaves but for giving us entirely new lives. We acknowledge that we were helpless and hopeless without You, but now in You, we have been made alive, raised up, and seated in heavenly places. Thank You for loving us fully aware of the worst about us. Help us to receive Your gift of grace with honesty and humility, rejecting both pride and postponement. May we live as Your masterpieces this week, daydreaming about how You might use us to represent You in this world. Use us to help others who are struggling to turn over new leaves to find the new life that only You can give. **Amen.**