

Transition:

Paul is giving thanks for the saints in Ephesus and is praying for them that God would give them wisdom and knowledge, enlightening them to truly understand the hope of His calling on their lives. He is stressing the importance of the saints (believers) to understand the power of the Spirit at work within us, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean when the bible speaks of being dead in our trespasses & sin? Why?
2. Where does this concept of "I found Jesus" come from?
3. How does this compare to what we read in Ephesians 2:1-4?
4. How were we "by nature children of wrath" according to v.3?

Fundamental:

Mercy - It is important to recognize that the process of salvation begins with God. He makes the first move. We even see this at the first scene of sin recorded in the bible (Genesis 3:6-9). Adam and Eve have rebelled towards God, and in their hiding it's God that walks amongst the garden seeking Adam and Eve. It's God's rich mercy that he lavishes on us because of his love - we who were spiritually dead are made alive together with Christ!

1. Read Romans 3:10-11 – Is Paul speaking of all people? Or those who are apart from Christ?
2. What do we need mercy from? (Eph 5:3-6; Col 3:5-6)
3. Exodus 33:19 God tells Moses, "I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." If the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), and all of us have sinned (Rom 3:23), why should God show mercy at all?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Read the story in Genesis chapter 3 of Adam & Eve's fall and compare God's actions vs. Adam & Eve's.
2. Please read Ephesians 2 again in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

It's important to remind & teach people according to scripture what God has done for us with his gift of mercy and the fact that, without him, we are dead. He makes us alive.

Prayer:

Thank God for the unmerited gift of his mercy and how he made us alive in Christ!