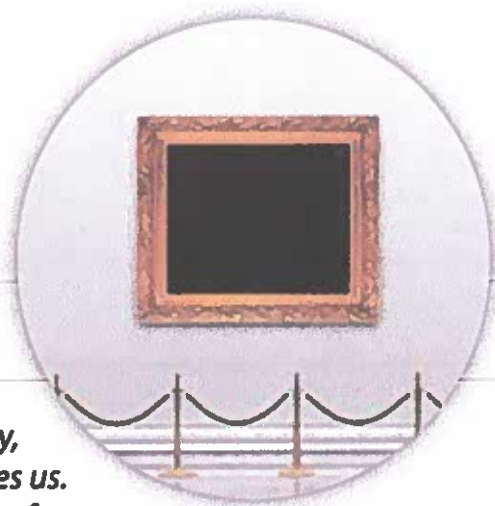


## God Wants to Change You

Participant's Guide

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*We are new creatures in Christ, and a way for the world to see God's glory.*

*When we come to God, as sinners with empty, broken lives, God forgives, cleanses, and saves us. Then he begins the process of changing us—of making us like Jesus. The second chapter of Ephesians contains a popular salvation verse: "For by grace you have been saved, through faith ..." This passage teaches us not only how we are saved, but how God is at work to remake us into the image of his Son, Jesus.*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2

**Based On:** "You Are God's Masterpiece," by Steve May, [PreachingToday.com](http://PreachingToday.com)

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### Part 1 Identify the Issue

God wants you to bury the past. In the first few verses of Ephesians 2, Paul talks about a way of life that he assumes is ancient history for his readers. For some of you, this may not be the case. In fact, everyone falls into one of three categories:

- Those who have given their lives to Christ and have successfully left behind their old way of life.
- Those who have given their lives to Christ but still struggle with their old way of life.
- Those who haven't yet given their lives to Christ, and what Paul refers to as the old way of life is actually their current way of life.

If you're in group one—hallelujah. If not, God doesn't want you to be chained to a sinful way of life. He wants to set you free. He wants to give you the power to overcome sin—and to bury the past forever in the past.

### Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

**Teaching Point One: God will give you the power to leave your past behind and to come alive spiritually.**

**Teaching Point Two: God wants to custom design your future.**

**Teaching Point Three: God wants to use community to help you be all you can in Christ.**

### Part 3 Apply Your Findings

God has plans for you. Big plans. He wants to show the world the incomparable riches of his grace, and you're the one he can use to do it. Even when you fail, he doesn't give up on your future. Because God not only has plans for you, he knows you can become like Jesus. He is sure of this because he has the power to change you through and through. He'll bury your past, because he wants to change you; he'll give you new life, because he wants to change you; and he has custom-designed a future for you, because he wants the world to see the change.

**Action Point: Break into pairs and share with your partner one thing you are going to do this week to change. It can be a habit to break or a habit to start.**

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**It can be a prayer to pray every day, or a Scripture to memorize and make a part of your life. Pray for each other after each of you has shared.**

*—Study by Steve May, with JoHannah Reardon*