

# MYSTERY

## LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **REBEL, Ephesians 2:1-3 November 4, 2018**

The Apostle Paul makes the case that the Ephesian believers were once hopelessly unregenerate with allegiances to the world, the devil and the spirit of the age—impassioned, but doomed before encountering the gospel.

#### **CONNECT**

1. What is something you are celebrating this week?

#### **CELEBRATE**

2. Sin is a standard we fail to meet or a line we deliberately cross. As Christians, what is our standard? Who sets it? What is our common understanding of sin in the world at large right now?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 & Ephesians 2:3. Discuss our spiritual condition and its consequences.
4. Scripture says we were enslaved in three ways prior to our conversion. Give some examples of enslavement in your life in each of the following categories:
  - a. Following the course of the world
  - b. Following the devil
  - c. Following the desires of the flesh
5. A recent Ligonier study shows that 52% of evangelicals believe that most people are generally good. This is false. How would you counsel someone to show how this statement is false using this passage and any other passages? You may want to use [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) or your Bible's concordance to find other verses.
6. In addition to our nature being children of wrath, we are also told that we "carry out our sinful passions." How are we complicit in our sinful nature? How does this emphasize our need for Christ? Read Genesis 3:6 & Romans 5:12 for further insight.
7. Some of the verbs in this passage are past tense. Talk about the significance and meaning of verb tenses in this passage.
8. If you are a believer who finds your identity in Christ, do you recognize ways that you are still prone to follow the world, devil and flesh? What are some areas of temptation or struggle? Repent, receive God's grace and rejoice in the gospel freshly applied to your life.
9. Verses 1-3 present some fairly grim news. How does verse 4, which starts with "But God," change the biblical reality of those verses?

#### **CONTRIBUTE**

10. How does this passage make you want to make Christ known to people who do not know him?
11. What will you do about it?