

“Christ In Us: Leveled Up”

Growth Group Guide

August 3, 2025

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

“Reduce, reuse, recycle” is a mantra we hear often. It stirs the imagination to consider how to follow the mantra to produce something masterful with the “old” throwaway stuff, something amazing and next level. Have you seen a masterful work of art or ingenious invention made from recycled items? Share about it.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the prayer and verse below. Take some time to praise and thank God that in Christ, we are a masterpiece of God’s.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

“I give thanks to You, O Lord, and I stand in awe of You, for I am wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works! Thank You that You uniquely designed and created me, with the same care and precision You used in creating the universe ... that You formed me in love exactly to Your specifications ... I’m grateful that my looks, my abilities, and my personality are like a special picture frame in which You can portray Your grace and beauty, Your love, Your strength, Your faithfulness, to the praise of Your glory. I rejoice that You have gifted me for the special purposes You have in mind for my life. I thank You for Your loving wisdom ... for your hands have made and fashioned me. I am one of Your original masterpieces!” (Myers, Ruth; Myers, Warren. *Thirty-One Days of Praise*. (p. 41). Kindle Edition.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Ephesians 2:1-3.** What things does Paul describe in these verses that plagued us as non-Christians? What words would you use to describe that condition of life?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:4-6.** What’s Paul’s transition point at the start of Ephesians 2:4 (hint it’s two words)? Why is this important? What does knowing these two words mean for you in your personal story?
3. In 2:4-6, what word describes God’s motivation in these verses? What two words describe Him acting out that motivation? Where have you seen Him display this motivation and actions in your life?
4. **Read Ephesians 1:19b-22a.** Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly realms, but it’s also where you are seated as well. How does that change your perspective on whatever is going on in your life currently? For further perspective read Colossians 3:1-2.
5. **Read Ephesians 2:7-9.** What are we learning of now and will be learning of on into eternity (v7)?

6. Isn’t it amazing that God shows us grace in Christ, not just once at salvation, but for all eternity? By faith, we are His trophies of grace eternally. What do you think about this?
7. **Read Ephesians 2:10.** What do you think about being God’s handiwork, His masterpiece? Is it hard for you to see yourself that way? Look at Psalm 139:13-14. How can we move from doubt to believing the truth about us?
8. God has work He’d like to accomplish together with you, not you on your own. How does His invitation to partner with you, by working through you, ease the burden of expectation and performance?
9. Are there things you are aware of that He’s already invited you to join Him in? Are there ways your growth group can support you with this?
10. Adam and Eve’s first day of existence was on a day of rest, we’re also to not begin with work but to understand rest first. How would it be different for you if work was approached from a position of rest? What if you lived as a spiritually rested person, who works?
11. To summarize: How does your understanding of salvation expand based on verses 1-10? How are we leveled up in verses 1-10?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: God elevated us in Christ, making us His masterpiece, enabling Him to do good works in and through us.** God has elevated, leveled you up, by loving you and showing you mercy, grace, and kindness, raising you from the dead, making you alive, saving you, and seating you in a position of honor next to Him, and making you His masterpiece. This makes you an able partner He can work together with, to accomplish the good things He desires to in and through you. Do you wonder what those good things are? Do you know some of them but wonder about the how? We can follow the model of Jesus who depended on His Father for what to do and where to go. So, talk to God this week, ask Him to show you the next part of His work in and through you and how you can join Him in bringing it about.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

To protect our missionary, please don’t share the following update on Social Media or on-line. Thank you!

*Mandi, with Bethel Harvest Ministries, shared a story about several forest fires about 20 minutes from home. They drove in the middle of the night to purchase food and drinks for the firefighters and left the food at base camp. They made quite an impression as they shared the love of Jesus during this crisis. All the fires were put out too! Praise God! Also, at the Salvation Distribution Center in Antioch, a wonderful children’s program was organized, and the kids had the time of their lives! Mandi’s team was able to give away sandals, Christian books, t-shirts, and food. Pray that each person they get to bless is touched by God’s love and drawn to love Jesus through their ministry. (**From July 2025 email update.*)

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