

Outline and study guide for “But God” Ephesians 2:4

Proposition: We don't have all the answers to life's messes “But God” who is rich in mercy and full of love has a habit of breaking into those situations.

Key scriptures

Ephesians 2:1-5 (CEV)

***2** In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. **2** You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. **3** Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else.*

***4-5** **But God** was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, **but God** loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you.*

Genesis 1:1-2

Isaiah 45:18

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 3:36

Genesis 20:3

Genesis 48:21

Genesis 50:20

Judges 15:19

1 Samuel 23:14

1 Corinthians 10:13

Psalms 49:15

In your small groups

Mixer: you may need to think about this before your small group meets.

Think of an impossible situation, a mess where God turned up and changed everything.

1. What was the main thing that God seemed to be saying to you through our texts on Sunday?
2. Vs 3 reminds us that we were once ruled by our selfish desires. Why is it that pursuing our own happiness, or lusts and desires will never satisfy?
3. Can you remember what it was like BEFORE you knew Jesus. In what ways were you dead?
4. Think of the “But God” illustrations from the sermon. Which one do you find particularly inspirational?
5. Have you thought about what you want to leave your children when you die? Insurance or assurance?
6. 1 Cor 10:13. Have you experienced God giving you a way out from temptation?
7. Death. Possibly the only Taboo topic of our day. People fear it more than anything else. What is your attitude to death?
8. Pray for us as a church. That we will have the capacity to boldly bring the message of “But God” into the many situations that we face weekly.