

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

FUTURE *in* FOCUS

Future in Focus | Week 2 | September 14, 2025

Text: Ephesians 2:1–10

Sermon Theme: We Were Goners — Saved by Grace for Good

Main Idea / Sticky Statement:

"Because of God's rich mercy and great love, He rescues us from death to life by grace through faith, and empowers us to live out our God-given purpose."

1. Opening Icebreaker

- When have you been caught in a situation you could not get yourself out of (physically, emotionally, or spiritually)? How did you respond?
- Share a time when someone stepped in to rescue or help you unexpectedly.

2. Read the Passage Together

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NIV)

Have someone in the group read it aloud slowly.

Ask another person to summarize it in their own words.

3. Explore the Text: Our Condition

Key Verse: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins..." (vv.1–3)

Discussion Questions:

- How does Paul describe our condition before Christ?
- Why might it take faith to believe we were spiritually dead, even though we felt alive?
- What illustrations from the sermon (goner, riptide, dog following a treat) helped you understand this idea?

Cross References: Romans 3:23 • Isaiah 59:2 • John 8:34

Reflection:

- Where do you still see "riptides" pulling at your life?
- How does this understanding change the way we see brokenness in the world?

4. Explore the Text: God's Compassion

Key Verse: "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ..." (vv.4–5)

Discussion Questions:

- How does Paul describe God's posture toward us even while we were "goners"?
- What's the difference between mercy and grace?
- How does understanding God's compassion speak to our feelings of shame, guilt, or confusion about identity?

Cross References: Romans 5:8 • Titus 3:4–5 • Luke 15:11–32

Reflection:

- When have you experienced God's compassion in a personal way?
- How can you show this same compassion to others?



5. Explore the Text: God's Solution

Key Verse: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves..." (vv.8–9)

Discussion Questions:

- Why is salvation described as a gift and not something we can earn?
- How did the riptide and lifeguard rescue illustration help you understand grace?
- Why is it important that we can't boast in our salvation?

Cross References: Romans 6:23 • Galatians 2:16 • 2 Timothy 1:9

Reflection:

- Where are you still trying to "swim harder" instead of resting in grace?
- What does relying fully on grace look like in your daily life?

6. Explore the Text: Our Purpose

Key Verse: "For we are God's handiwork...created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." (v.10)

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean that we are God's "handiwork" or masterpiece?
- How did the symphony/cymbalist illustration help you understand our role in God's work?
- What happens in the church when everyone plays their part?

Cross References: 1 Corinthians 12:4–27 • Matthew 5:14–16 • John 15:16

Reflection:

- What "good works" might God be preparing for you to do?
- How can you play your part in the symphony of God's mission at St. Andrew's?

7. Application & Prayer

Group Challenge: Each person identify one specific "good work" they will do this week to love their community and shape the culture with Jesus' values.

Prayer: Thank God for His mercy and grace. Ask Him to empower each of you to live out your purpose as His handiwork.