



OPENING QUESTION

Take a couple of minutes to brag on yourself. What is something that you are extraordinarily good at? What talent, ability, gift or skill do you possess that sets you apart in that area? Then go around the circle and allow your group members to speak into the life of each person, sharing with them what they see as that person's special talents, abilities, gifts or skills.

PRAYER

Open with prayer giving thanks for how God has shaped each person in the room and asking the Holy Spirit to speak through the Scriptures and through one another as you meet as a small group.

READ TOGETHER

This past weekend's teaching focused in on **Ephesians 2:1-10**. Let's begin with some context. Ephesians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a group of Christ-followers who, in all likelihood, worship together in a home in Ephesus in the area that is now modern-day Turkey. One writer has summarized this letter with the words "Sit, walk, stand." Paul spends the first three chapters convincing the Ephesians of their identity in Christ by teaching them that they are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. Then he spends chapters four and five teaching them how to walk with Christ everyday. Paul closes by using chapter six to help know how to take their stand against our enemy Satan by putting on the armor of God. Go around the group and have each member read a verse as you read through Ephesians 2:1-10.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Part 1)

- 1) What do verses 1-3 reveal about our lives before and without Christ?
- 2) What do verses 4-9 teach us about what God has done to change us and our situation as described in verses 1-3?
- 3) Now read Ephesians 2:10. What does this summary verse tell us about ourselves?
- 4) In what ways do you think God has made us His masterpiece?

BIG IDEA

The big idea of Matt's 180 sermon last weekend was that as those who belong to Christ, **we are saved to serve**. In fact, Matt said, **"Those who care about others more than they care about themselves can change the world or change a lot of peoples' worlds along the way."** He went on to make the point that all of us have spiritual DNA. Our physical DNA is our unique genetic code - the basic ingredients that go into the nucleus of the chromosomes that make up the cells in our bodies. Your DNA determines everything you're capable of being and doing - Who you are, what you look like, the sound of your voice, the weight of your body, the strength of your vision, the color of your hair, the height you will end up at, and how fast your fingernails can grow. And no one has the same DNA as you do. The Bible teaches that all of us have a unique spiritual DNA as well. Matt went on to teach about three 3 components to our spiritual DNA. Each of us has a D, an N and an A.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Part 2)

- 5) First the **D** or what is **Divine** about us. Read Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. What do these verses teach us about what God has divinely given to us?
- 6) Go around the circle and focus on each other's spiritual gifts. What do you sense your spiritual gift is? What do others in your group sense is your spiritual gift? Take the time necessary to discuss this as a group speaking into one another's lives.
- 7) The second part of our spiritual DNA is the **N** or what is **Natural** about us. This is all about the abilities and personalities we possess. Matt made the statement on the weekend that God tends to use us **in light of** who we are rather than **in spite of** who we are. Can you think of a Bible character that God used in light of who they were?
- 8) Again, go around the circle and focus on each other's N. What do you think is natural about you when you think about the abilities you have and the personality you came wired with? What are 5 words you would use to describe the "natural you?"
- 9) Now to the **A** part of our spiritual DNA. This is what is **Acquired** in the way of passions. Over time, those who follow Christ typically begin to become passionate about particular needs or problems they see. Take a few minutes to read Nehemiah 1:1-2:5. What is the passion that Nehemiah acquired?
- 10) Bill Hybels calls this passion our "**holy discontent**". He describes it as the one aspect of this broken world that, when you see it, touch it, get near it, you just can't stand it. And very likely, Hybels writes, that firestorm of frustration reflects your holy discontent, a reality so troubling that you are thrust off the couch and into the game. What do you sense is your holy discontent?

CHALLENGE

Now take five minutes of quiet for a time of focused meditation. Allow each group member time to answer three questions that focus on how God has made each of us His masterpiece. First: **What do I know about my spiritual DNA?** Second: **What do I need to do in light of this knowledge?** Third: **What one specific next step am I going to take this week to live into my spiritual DNA?** Then go around the circle and have each group member share their answers.

PRAYER

Take time to pray for the person on your left in regard to the answers they gave to the three questions.

NEXT STEPS

A great follow up read to this week's study is Bill Hybel's book **Holy Discontent**. This 160-page volume will help to open your eyes to the needs around you and how you can hear God's voice allowing you to acquire a passion to go to work on one of the world's problems with Him. Hybels uses examples from Scripture, his life and other's experiences to demonstrate "how you can find and feed your personal area of holy discontent, fight for it when things get risky and follow it when it takes a mid-course turn. As you live from the energy of your holy discontent, you'll fulfill your role in setting what is wrong in this world right!" (from Amazon.ca where you can buy this book for \$18)