

*1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh. 4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
(Ephesians 2:1-10)

1. According to vs. 1-3, who were we before Christ?
2. God's Word in vs. 4-9 says "*but because of His great love for us...*" He saved us! Knowing the debt that is owed because of sin, what are some characteristics of God that makes this even possible? (Additional resource: Micah 7:18) Does it sound "too good to be true"? Why did God do this for us? (see vs. 7)
3. How is believing that we need to do good works to be worthy of God's forgiveness counter the Gospel?
4. Discuss the following: Why is it so important to remember who we were before Christ; what God has done for us while in our previous state; how He did it and who we are now? How can we do a better job at remembering this? How would being mindful of "our story" affect the way we live our daily lives; the way we see and treat others; the way we approach temptation, our self-talk, etc?