



Connect with God's Purpose

Parents: We never tire of hearing the message that by God's grace we have been saved through Jesus Christ. We have been given a gift. This is all part of God's perfect plan. He not only saved us by His Son; He created us for a purpose. Let's take a closer look at Ephesians with our children to learn more.

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in 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. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Discuss: What does it mean to follow the ways of the world? *It means to disobey God and His Word.* Can you give examples? *Taking something that isn't mine, talking bad about someone behind their back, etc.* What do people deserve for acting like that? *God's wrath or anger.*

Even though people deserve God's wrath, what does He give us? *He gives us love, mercy and grace through Jesus Christ. Jesus, although he had no sin, died in our place for our sins.* God had all this planned out as we read about in the Old Testament before Jesus was even born. Do you think God has a plan or purpose for you? *Yes. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's handiwork. In Jesus we are created to do good works which God prepared in advance.* Wow! That's neat to think about. Do we do good works to be saved? *No. We do it out of love and thankfulness.*

Key Point: We are God's Handiwork

We are	(Point to yourself)
God's Handiwork	(Point up to heaven, Take one hand and shake your fist like a hammer)

Family Activity: To remind us that we are God's handiwork and we have been created to do good works, decorate the attached hammer. Post it in your home as a nudge to look for ways to do God's work out of a thankful heart.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for Your love, grace, and mercy. Thank You for saving us from our sins through Jesus Christ. We know that you created us and have a plan for us to do good works for You. We want to do it out of a heart of love and thankfulness. Show us what we can do for You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Ephesians 2:10. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



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