

Fully Alive

WEEK 5: FROM FAR TO NEAR

Ephesians 2:11–13 • STRENGTHENED BY GOD, Part 1

CORE PHRASE: Fully Alive means remembering where grace found us, receiving the belonging Jesus purchased, and moving toward others with that same grace.

OPEN IT – Connect with Each Other

1. Think of a time you were new or felt outside the circle. What helped you begin to feel like you belonged?

EXPLORE IT – Explore God’s Word Together

Read Ephesians 2:11–13 aloud. Listen for the contrast between what was true ‘formerly’ and what is true ‘now’ in Christ.

2. Paul tells these believers to remember that they were once separated, excluded, without hope, and without God. Why do you think remembering where we were matters for our faith now?
3. Verse 13 begins, ‘But now in Christ Jesus...’ What changed—and what does this verse tell us about who closed the distance?

KNOW IT – Bring the Truth into Your Life

4. Where are you tempted to feel like an outsider with God—as though He tolerates you but does not really want you near? How does verse 13 speak to that?
5. Who are the people you naturally move toward—and who might you naturally keep at a distance?
6. Who may be standing outside a circle you could open this week? What could ‘moving near’ look like for you?

PRACTICE IT – Remember • Receive • Move Near

REMEMBER where grace found you. RECEIVE again the belonging Jesus purchased for you. MOVE NEAR to one person with the same kind of welcome you have received.

PRAY IT – Depend on God Together

Thank Jesus that He crossed the distance we could not cross. Ask Him to help you live from the security of belonging to Him and to show you one person who needs an open circle, a conversation, an invitation, or a seat at the table.

Prayer: *Jesus, thank You that when we were far away, You brought us near. Help us remember Your grace, receive Your welcome, and extend that same welcome to others. Make us a people where others can belong, grow, and follow You—together. Amen.*