

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13 (NIV)

Near

That word sounds so good. I had no idea how much hope and joy I would have in that word. **What word are you talking about?** I am thinking and talking about the word near. At one time I live far away from you. **Not as far as you think.** How so? **You think you were living in darkness. You think you were walking on a path that led away from me. You think you were living without hope in the world.** Would I be wrong in thinking those thoughts? **No, you would not, that is not the point I want to make to you.** What point do you want to make to me? **I was near to you then. I am near to you now. My eye was on you then. My eye is on you now. It is true that your sin separated you from a relationship with me. But I, was not content to let you remain in that condition. I came into to the world to die on the cross as payment for your sins. All I suffered, I suffered so that you could be drawn near and come to live in an intimate relationship with me. So, when you cried out to me, I was there to answer your cry. When you turned your life over to me, I was ready to hear your prayer. When you told me that you would follow me as your Savior and Lord I was ready to lead and guide you through life. Do you hear what I am saying to you? I was near to you then and I am near to you right now.** That is awesome. For that I will be forever thankful and grateful. **That's good.**

So, what about now? What about now? **What desire do you have in your heart right now?** It is my desire to come to know you ever more fully every day as I follow and serve you. It is the passion of my live in an intimate relationship with you. I don't want to know and love you a little bit. I want to know and love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I want to know and love you as intimately as is possible. I want what you want for me. I want to receive all that you have for me. I want to walk closely with you. I will keep on drawing near to you. I know that you will keep on drawing near to me. **Yes, I will.** That is why my life is filled with such hope and joy and thankfulness. **That is very good.**

Lord, I was without hope in the world. My sin separated me from you. No relationship with you was possible. But you changed all that. You brought me near through your bloody sacrifice on the cross. You forgave my sin so I can live in a new relationship with you. Amen

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)--remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

NIV Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

NLT Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

NRSV Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Therefore, remember that at one time you were Gentiles (heathens) in the flesh, called Uncircumcision by those who called themselves Circumcision, [itself a mere mark] in the flesh made by human hands. [Remember] that you were at that time separated (living apart) from Christ [excluded from all part in Him], utterly estranged and outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the [Messianic] promise [with no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants]. And you had no hope (no promise); you were in the world without God. But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were [so] far away, through (by, in) the blood of Christ have been brought near.

AMP Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

NASB Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

ESV Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Near*

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

NKJV Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Are In On Everything*

But don't take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God's ways had no idea of any of this, didn't know the first thing about the way God works, hadn't the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God's covenants and promises in Israel, hadn't a clue about what God was doing in the world at large. Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything.

MSG Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Have Been Brought Very Near*

Never forget that once you were heathen and that you were called godless and "unclean" by the Jews. (But their hearts, too, were still unclean, even though they were going through the ceremonies and rituals of the godly, for they circumcised themselves as a sign of godliness.) Remember that in those days you were living utterly apart from Christ; you were enemies of God's children, and he had promised you no help. You were lost, without God, without hope. But now you belong to Christ Jesus, and though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought very near to him because of what Jesus Christ has done for you with his blood.

TLB Ephesians 2:11-13

Life In Christ *Are Brought Near*

You were not born Jewish. You are the people the Jews call "uncircumcised." Those who call you "uncircumcised" call themselves "circumcised." (Their circumcision is only something they themselves do on their bodies.) Remember that in the past you were without Christ. You were not citizens of Israel, and you had no part in the agreements with the promise that God made to his people. You had no hope, and you did not know God. But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away from God are brought near through the blood of Christ's death.

NCV Ephesians 2:11-13

Have Been Brought Near

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Life In Christ – Ephesians 2:11-13

In Context: *Read Ephesians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Therefore, | remember that | formerly | you | who are Gentiles | by birth | and called | "uncircumcised" | by those | who call themselves | "the circumcision" | (that done | in the body | by the hands | of men)-- | remember that | at that | time | you were | separate | from Christ, | excluded | from citizenship | in Israel | and | foreigners | to the covenants | of the promise, | without hope | and | without God | in the world. | But now | in Christ Jesus | you | who once | were | far away | have been | brought near | through | the blood | of Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I was without hope in the world. My sin separated me from you. No relationship with you was possible. But you changed all that. You brought me near through your bloody sacrifice on the cross. You forgave my sin so I can live in a new relationship with you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What was it like for you to be living, separated from Christ, without hope in the world?

What did it cost for you to be forgiven and cleansed of your sin so you could come to Christ?

What helps you to keep on remembering and giving thanks for all Christ has done for you?

How does remembering and thinking about all that Christ has done impact your life today?

How has Jesus Christ changed your life since you were brought near to live in a relationship with Him?

How does your hope in Christ give you joy to keep on living your life with and for Him?

When do you go out of your way to tell others about the new life that they can have in Jesus Christ?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Remember and give thanks to Jesus Christ for all He has done, is doing and will do for you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in our heart?)***

Have faith that your Christ drew you near to Him so that you can live in an intimate relationship with Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how remembering what Christ has done for you impacts your life today.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you keep on living in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will keep on living in an intimate relationship with you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, I can I be drawn near and live in an even more intimate relationship with you?
