

Introduction:

Easter is over, but the story of Jesus & what he wants to do in your life is not. If we are going to grow closer to Jesus, the Resurrection has to be more than a single event, it should affect the way we live each day. We must not lose sight of the love God has for us & the grace he has shown us.

Scripture:

Ephesians 2:3-5 — “All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

2 Corinthians 5:17 - “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had a particularly memorable experience at a Chuck E Cheese or a similar kids’ party venue?
2. Has there ever been a time when you were so good, so righteous that even apart from Jesus, you feel like you could have earned your own way into Heaven?
 - What does it say about God that he doesn’t require us to be “good” before offering us his love?
3. In what ways do you think we become “new people” (2 Corinthians 5:17) when we follow Jesus?
4. It seems the longer we follow Jesus, the easier it may become to quit comparing ourselves to Jesus and to instead ourselves to other people.
 - What is at stake when we begin comparing ourselves to newer or less mature followers of Jesus and forget that Ephesians 2 says “all of us used to live that way”?

- In light of Ephesians 2, what should our attitude be towards people who are beginning a relationship with Jesus and don't yet act like Jesus?

5. Take a moment to compare yourself to Jesus.

- In what ways might you be like Jesus? (Be generous with yourself.)
- Where might you and Jesus differ?

Take the Next Step:

If you answered the last question honestly, you've identified a Next Step for yourself. How can you quit comparing yourself to others & take a step forward this week?