

You are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works.

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

Summary:

You are God's masterpiece even if you do not always feel it.

You were dead; you were not alive. All of us were dead – even if we went to church! Like Lazarus in the grave we were dead and smelly. We were not able to move. We could do nothing. Jesus came and shouted 'Come Out'.

But God!

He has shown His great love for us! Do not moan and say no-one loves me – God loves you!

God is not just merciful but rich in mercy towards you. You may feel that you have gone too far, God cannot cover you.... but God is richer than you imagine and He wants to lavish it on you. You can know a rich person but not be rich. God wants to give us His riches.

All of grace!

You are the not initiator ... you are God's workmanship. The gospel is God's work from beginning to end. Imagine Michelangelo takes a block of marble and chisels out the wonderful statue of David ... that is what God does with us. He chips off great lumps and then continues to refine us.

God created heaven and earth and every single star – He does not need your help with anything.

You are a new creation – not just the old patched up. You are linked with Christ... His history is your history; His future is your future.

Holy Spirit

The Father planned our salvation, Jesus pays for our salvation and the Holy Spirit makes it real to us. (The word of God is wonderful but not enough... we are called to relationship through the Spirit)

Word of God

We so need the word of God – it is good to gather and hear the preached word (get to Butlins and hear the apostolic message)

God uses circumstances to shape us.

We are God's master pieces: as the potter shapes the lump of clay (hits and flattens it till gets it right) so God is shaping us... God will make a beautiful pot.

We do not exist to be happy and comfortable but for His praise and glory.

Application:

Please select from the following questions and do not attempt them all. Encourage all to take part and be as honest as possible. It is good to leave some time to pray together.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. How are you aware of God's love? How do you remember this in the tough times?
3. In what ways do you feel God is shaping you now? Be more honest!
4. Pray for each other to know more of the Holy Spirit... now.
5. Do you always feel that God is generous? Why or why not?
6. If God does not need my help why should I bother trying?
7. In what ways do people disappoint you? How do you overcome this?