For Sunday 1st November 2026

Passage: Ephesians 2.1-10

St Peter's
COLCHESTER

St Peter's Kids Resources

Welcome to the resources for St Peter's Kids.

Each Sunday, Seekers and Diggers will normally explore the same Bible passage or theme as the rest of the church, in ways that are right for their different ages.

Our hope is to help the children:

- engage seriously with the Bible;
- grasp one clear central truth;
- understand why it matters;
- respond appropriately to God;
- enjoy being together and build good relationships.

How to use these resources

These are resources, not a script. Please use your knowledge of the children and your own strengths as a leader, and feel free to adapt what is here. You certainly do not need to use everything suggested.

A simple, engaging conversation about the Bible can be far more valuable than an elaborate activity. The aim is always to help the children understand, remember and respond to God's word.

Seekers and Diggers

- Seekers – Reception to Year 2: keep things short, concrete and interactive, using repetition, movement, visual material and questions they can genuinely answer.
- Diggers – Years 3 to 6: give children real opportunities to read the Bible, notice things in the text, think, question, discuss and respond. Aim for material that stretches them without feeling childish.

What about craft?

Craft can be a great way to reinforce the Bible teaching or help children respond, but it is entirely optional. If you enjoy using craft and it genuinely helps the session, please do. If it does not, there is absolutely no need to include it.

Summary

- Paul says sin has separated us from God. We cannot repair that relationship by ourselves.
- But God acts because he is rich in mercy. He makes us alive with Christ.
- We are saved by grace as a gift. The new life God gives leads us to do good things.
- Key verse: Ephesians 2:8–10
- Aim: To help children see that God gives us new life with Jesus because of his love. We do not earn this gift; the new life he gives leads us to do good for others.

Things to notice in the passage

- Paul is writing to Christians, reminding them what they were like before they knew Christ. He begins with "you", then includes himself and his fellow believers with "we all" in verse 3. Everyone needs God's rescue.
- "Dead in trespasses and sins" does not mean people never do anything good. Paul is describing our separation from God and our inability to bring ourselves back to him.
- Verses 1–3 describe three influences: the world around us, spiritual opposition to God, and our own wrong desires. Keep this broad with younger children; the key point is our need for God.
- Verse 4 is the great turning point: **"But God."** God is the main actor in verses 4–7. He makes alive, raises and seats us with Christ because of his mercy and love.
- In verses 8–9, salvation is God's gift, received through faith. It is not a reward for good behaviour.
- Verse 10 begins with "For": good works explain the purpose of the new life God gives. They are its fruit, not the price of salvation.

Possible approach for Seekers

A present you cannot earn: Put a wrapped present beside a simple "jobs completed" chart. Ask: "Which one do you get because you have done enough? Which one is freely given?" Let the children talk about gifts they have received.

Then read Ephesians 2:4–10, or tell it simply: we had turned away from God and could not put things right by ourselves. But God loves us and gives us new life with Jesus. We receive this as a gift. Then God helps us do good things.

Ask:

- Who acts first in the passage: us or God?
- Why is the life God gives a gift?
- If good works do not earn God's love, what are they for?
- What is one kind thing you could do for someone this week?

Keep returning to: God makes us alive with Jesus because he loves us. We do good because he has given us new life.

Possible approach for Diggers

Read Ephesians 2:1–10. Give the children three coloured pencils: one for what sin has done, one for what God has done, and one for what God has made us for. Ask them to mark the passage as they read.

Questions:

- What words describe our situation in verses 1–3?
- What changes at verse 4?
- Who is doing the actions in verses 4–7?
- What does Paul say saves us? What does he say does not save us?
- How would you explain the difference between being saved by good works and being saved for good works?
- Why does grace leave no room for boasting?

For a response, ask children to complete: "I cannot earn God's love by…" and "Because God has been kind to me, I can…" Keep the second answer concrete and gentle.

Connecting it with St Peter's

- We do not need to impress God or prove we are useful in order to belong to him. He gives life by grace.
- Good works include ordinary kindness, telling the truth, welcoming someone, helping at home, praying for a friend and receiving help when we need it.
- Ask what might change if we stopped comparing ourselves with others and remembered that we all depend on God's mercy.

Possible activities

- Gift or reward? Read examples such as "a birthday present", "a medal for winning" and "a kind word". Children sort them into "gift" and "earned". Link the difference to verses 8–10.
- The passage in three pictures: Draw someone stuck, God reaching in to rescue them, and then the person helping someone else. Ask children to explain each picture from the passage.
- Good works in ordinary life: Give a scenario such as a new child arriving or someone dropping their things. Ask what a response shaped by God's kindness might look like.

A note for leaders

Paul is not saying that people without Christ are worthless or incapable of any good action. He is explaining our inability to overcome sin and restore our relationship with God. Keep the contrast clear: God saves by grace; good works are the result, not the price. Verse 10 is not an instruction to become busier or more impressive. It is an invitation to see ordinary good works as the life God prepares for people he has already made new.

Prayer

- Thank God for his mercy and love.
- Thank Jesus for bringing us new life.

- Ask God to help us trust his gift and show his kindness to others.
- Pray for anyone who finds it hard to ask for or receive help.