



## PART ONE: PERSPECTIVE VS. POSITION

For most of us, life is more like a fight than a race. Why are we studying this little book? Because we fight battles too. And to be honest, sometimes we can't tell if these battles are from within or from without. And that makes a big difference in how you fight them! Perspective matters. We sometimes face things that appear over our heads and we wonder, what are we to do?

**BIG IDEA: Position doesn't determine a win. Perspective does.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a trip/vacation that turned into more of a fight than a journey? What happened? How did you get through it?
2. Prior to this week's message, what was your view on spiritual warfare? Has it changed after this message?
3. With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 1:3-5

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

*Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)*

4. Paul's breakthroughs took place because he recognized (perspective) his place in God's kingdom. What does Ephesians 1 teach us about our placement in God's family? How do these insights equip us to face spiritual warfare in our daily lives?
5. What excites you the most about God's relationship to you?
6. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. These verses show that there is Election (God chose YOU) by the Father, Redemption (God saved YOU) by the Son, and Sealing (God keeps/secures YOU) by the Spirit. How does this insight impact your view of God and his love for you?
7. What does the prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 show us about what God has for us and where we are placed with Him?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In Ephesians 1:17–20 Paul is praying for 3 things. In what ways can we pray this prayer over ourselves? What can we hope to gain from praying like this? How can we as a group practically choose to have God's perspective over our individual and collective struggles this week?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we[d] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground... - Ephesians 6:10-14a (NLT)*