



## bigIdea small group discussion

Choices. We make a multitude of choices every day of our lives – from the coffee we order at Starbucks to the choices we make about how to raise our children. One way to realize the type of person we’ve become is to look at the choices we’ve made. When it comes to our relationship with God, what choices have we made in following Christ? What choices have been made for us?



**BIG IDEA:** You cannot choose to be chosen by someone else.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a tattoo? Tell your *inked* story about how/why you got your tattoo.
2. If you don't have a tattoo but were going to get one, what would it be? What would it say? Why did you pick what you did?
3. We all have marks and tattoos on our souls because of what someone has said or done to us. They feel permanent and we allow them to define us. But what if we listened to what God has to say about us instead of what others say? Because we all choose to be tattooed and marked by someone. So who is marking your life?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ephesians 1:3-14 in the New American Standard Version (BTW, in the original language, verses 3-14 are all one sentence!!).* What are the spiritual blessings we have in Christ, according to verses 3-14? Write them down as a group on a piece of paper. What difference should these spiritual blessings make in our lives?
5. Which one of these spiritual blessings are the most meaningful and why?
6. How many times does the words 'In Christ', or 'In him' appear?
7. Do you believe that we chose God or that God has chosen us?
8. How does being chosen by God (v.4) relate to our believing (v.13)? Who are the *we* and the *you* mentioned here?
9. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 8:14-16.*
10. What big choices have you made recently that reflect your worldview?
11. There are a few areas where you don't have a choice (i.e. your name, your family). What current areas in your life do you feel as if you don't have any choices?
12. As Chris mentioned, we cannot choose to be chosen. However, we can often put forth our best efforts to be "choosable". What do you do to favorably present yourself?
13. Why does God "choose" us as His children? Is it because of our skills and traits? Or are there other reasons why God adopts us as His own?
14. Are you living life as an orphan or are you living life in the reality as a child of God?

### THINK ABOUT IT

What makes the orphan lifestyle so appealing that despite the fact that we have a Heavenly Father, we choose to live like orphans?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What can you do to remind yourself that you are a beloved child of God and not an abandoned orphan?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 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. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. Ephesians 1:4-6*