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bigIdea small group discussion

Think before you Ink. Why? Because when you get a tattoo, it is permanent. One tattoo artist said that, “You need to sit on an idea for a year before permanently committing to getting a design etched into your skin.”

Tattoos are permanent. And once we believe in Jesus Christ and become accepted and adopted, we are permanently included in God’s family. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God that we find in Jesus Christ!

BIG IDEA: Just as a tattoo is permanent—joining God’s family is permanent.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think about this question: Is there anything that could ever make you disown your child (if you have one)?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ephesians 1:3-14.* These 11 verses was originally one long sentence.

Paul reminds me here of a...

- a) sports announcer extolling a favorite star.
 - b) pastor reciting a ritualized prayer.
 - c) essay for which I got a ‘D’ for run-on sentences.
 - d) teenager talking about his new love.
3. In this paragraph-long sentence, what to you seems to be a key verse? Why?
 4. Read and re-read this passage filling in the chart below with the *past, present, and future* activities which the *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit* do for us.

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Past			
Present			
Future			

5. In your own words, describe the blessings in Christ (in Him) in verses 3-9.
6. In all that God is doing for us, what is His motivation? (4, 12) His purpose (9-10)?
7. What do you learn about our purpose as Christians from each of these verses? (4, 6, 12, 14)
8. From the human point of view, what is the key to inheriting all God has done for us? (12-13)
9. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ephesians 1:13-14.* When were we *included in Christ*?
10. According to verse 13, When were we marked with the Holy Spirit?
11. Chris said that *sealed* indicates three things: secure, authentic, and ownership. Which one of these means the most to you? Why?
12. What does Paul mean by “inheritance”?
13. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 2:13-14.* How many of our sins were covered by Jesus Christ? How many of our sins were *future* sins when Jesus died on the cross? Why is the timing of our sin irrelevant?
14. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 John 5:11-13.* Can a person really know that they have eternal life? How does one get eternal life based upon verses 11-12?
15. Based on 1 John 5:13, is it possible to have assurance (to know) that you are saved? Who does John say has this assurance?

THINK ABOUT IT

Can Christians lose their salvation? Now that's an important question. Can I be sure that I'm really saved? Most Christians have probably had moments of doubt about their salvation. After all, we've all entertained thoughts and have committed acts that we knew were displeasing to God. We've all experienced that sense of remorse and sometimes questioned the reality of our salvation afterwards. Backsliding can no doubt cause such feelings to arise, and should hopefully move us to repentance (1 John 1:9).

However, when it comes to the issue of eternal security, the Bible makes it absolutely clear that those who have been saved will never be lost. Jesus emphatically pointed this out in the Gospel of John when, in reference to believers, He said,

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand...”

John 10:28

The Bible says that no one who has received eternal life will ever lose it. We are permanently *inked!*

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Knowing that we are secure in our relationship with Jesus, how does that make you want to live your life? How does knowing you are adopted permanently into God's family change your view of yourself and God? If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, what will you do differently knowing that you are permanently in God's family?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance... Ephesians 1:13-14