

**Slide 1** (Scripture Reading)

“Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory. In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:3-14 (CSB)

**Slide 2** (Title & Reference)

“There is No Plan B”

- Ephesians 1:3-10

**Slide 3**

“Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.”

- Ephesians 1:3-6 (CSB)

Do you really think that God has ever had a Plan B?

**Slide 4**

“He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ as a plan for the right time-to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.”

- Ephesians 1:9-10 (CSB)

**God does not have, nor has he ever had a Plan B.**

**Slide 5**

“In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:11-12 (CSB)

## Slide 6

Parallel Belief Systems

- 1) A philosophical dependency on the sovereignty of God
- 2) A functional dependency on ourselves

## Slide 7

Now this is what the LORD says—the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who formed you, Israel—“Do not fear; for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you.”

- Isaiah 43:1-2 (CSB)

- **There will be water, rivers, and fires.**
- **There will be glory**

## Slide 8

Image 1

Image 2

## Slide 9

Image 3

Image 4

## Slide 10

“In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:11-12 (CSB)

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## Slide 11 (Benediction)

“In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, an when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.”

- Ephesians 1:13-14 (CSB)

## Community Group Questions

- Open with praise and prayer, with a focus on how God has provided for you since you last met. Try to be specific in your sharing.
- Read Ephesians 1:3-10

- 1) What are some ways that the narrative of scripture can make us think/feel like God's first couple of plans didn't work out and that he's now working out of a Plan B? How do you see God's Plan A playing out in this passage?

2) Ephesians 1:8-9 speaks of a mystery revealed, a purpose in Christ, a right timing, heaven and earth colliding... Discuss what these phrases reveal to us about the mindset of the Father.

3) On Sunday we discussed two parallel belief systems that we often tend to live out of as Christians. The first is a philosophical dependency on God, the second is a functional dependency of ourselves. Discuss the difference and give examples of how this parallel belief system might be at play in your own life.

- Read Ephesians 1:11-12

4) Discuss the tension between the promises of those two verses (according to plan, purpose of will) with the reality of how life goes. How does this tension contribute to a functional dependency on self and how can we fight against it to reclaim our dependency on Christ?

- Read Ephesians 1:13-14

5) What encouragement do these two verses offer? How does the presence of the Holy Spirit give us hope and dependency on Christ for the trials and challenges of life?

- Conclude by reading Isaiah 43:1-2 over your group and move into a time of prayer requests and prayer.