

The Church... A *Master* Planned Community
Priceless Give-Aways for New Members – Part 3 (Ephesians 1:11-14)
Small Group Study Questions for the week of Feb 1-7

GETTING STARTED

Think back for a minute on all the jobs you've had over the years since childhood, the jobs where you worked for a business, a company, an organization, where you had a boss, a manager, or supervisor. Can you recall when (and I guess "if") you were first struck with the reality that *what you do* on-the-job, --*how you do* your job, directly reflects on the company, business, organization, or boss, or supervisor? What was that like? Did your company or boss do things on your behalf that encouraged you to work harder and be more conscientious of representing them in the best possible light?

DIGGING DEEP

Read through Ephesians 1:3-14 together as a group

1. From verse 3-10, how has God "blessed us... with every spiritual blessing"? What are these blessings?
2. Which of these blessings have meant the most to you? Why is that? What are the spiritual blessings in verses 11-14?
3. What can we learn about the character of God in v.11? How could those character qualities influence our day-to-day lives? If possible, give a personal example of this?
4. According to v.12 what is one of the key reasons God "predestined us"?
5. How would you describe "for the praise of his glory" to a third grader? How might they apply this truth to their world? How about to your world?
6. In verse 12 Paul uses the pronoun "we," and in verse 13 he switches to "you." Who are the "we" and the "you" he is referring to and why do you think he distinguishes between the two?
7. How are we "included in Christ" according to v.13? When did you first hear "the word of truth, the gospel (or good news) of your salvation"? How did you initially respond to it and why?
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in v.13 and 14? What is the purpose of the "sealing"? How can you tell if you have "the seal"? Are there any other Bible verses that come to mind that would shed light on this?
9. What kind of inheritance is Paul talking about in v.14? When might we have access to it?

A MATTER OF PRAYER

10. This entire opening section (v.3-14) ends with the phrase "to the praise of his glory." What connection could there be with this phrase to the all the spiritual blessings he just listed are ours? How might this truth re-direct your day tomorrow? The next day?

Next Week: Ephesians 1:15-23