

The Church... A *Master* Planned Community
Priceless Give-Aways for New Members – Part 2 (Ephesians 1:7-10)
Small Group Study Questions for the week of January 25-31

GETTING STARTED

Our self-perception, self-image, --how we see ourselves, has massive influence on our success in living, how we get along with others, how we do our jobs, how we parent, and how much we enjoy life. Psychologists today tell us our self-image is largely formed by how *we perceive* highly significant people in our lives *view us*. Take a few minutes in your group to talk about one highly significant person in your life and how they've influenced your self-perception.

DIGGING DEEP

Read through Ephesians 1:1-14, then just 1:3, & 7-10 together as a group

1. What are the two “spiritual blessings” or “priceless giveaways” in verse 7, and what is the source of these blessings? What makes those blessings possible for us? See also Eph 1:3.
2. What comes to mind when you see the word “redemption”? How would you define it as it is used in the Bible?
3. Verse 7 says “*In him we have* (present tense, --we possess this now!) *redemption*.” According to Eph. 2:1-3 and I Peter 1:18-19, what was lifelike before we had redemption, before we were “redeemed”?
4. “*In him we have redemption through his blood*,” from Romans 3:21-26, --especially v.25, Hebrews 9:14 & 22, and I Corinthians 6:20, what can we learn about redemption and the blood of Christ?
5. If God used the blood of his Son Jesus Christ as the currency to buy us, or redeem us out of slavery, what does that tell us about our value to him? What do you feel keeps many followers of Jesus from experiencing God's tremendous affection for them?
6. Another result of the blood of Christ is that we are completely forgiven of our sins. How “completely forgiven” are we according to Psalm 103:12 and Micah 7:18-19?
7. In many surveys of followers of Christ, it has been shown that most know they are forgiven of their sins but they often don't “feel” forgiven and struggle with guilt. Why do you think that is?
8. What can we learn from v.7-8 about God's motives and character when it comes to our redemption and forgiveness?
9. According to v.9, what did God decide? How was Christ a part of that? What kinds of emotions did God express? See also Eph 3:8-11.
10. What will God do in v.10? When will he do it? What is the part Jesus plays in that?

A MATTER OF PRAYER

11. What could you do as a small group to help one another experience more of the joy of redemption and forgiveness of sins?
12. If God desires to bring about this colossal unity under Christ one day, how might v.9-10 apply to our church family at LakeView?

Next Week: Ephesians 1:11-14