

The Church... A *Master* Planned Community
Priceless Give-Aways for New Members – Part 1 (Ephesians 1:3-6)
Small Group Study Questions for the week of January 18-24

GETTING STARTED

Can you think about a time during your childhood, at school, or adult years on-the-job when you had a strong advantage over your peers? Maybe it was a talent, or special training, or an experience that gave you an edge? Maybe it was because of your parents? What was that like? How did that make you feel?

DIGGING DEEP

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

1. When people describe how they are “*blessed*” today, what does that usually include?
2. How would you explain a “spiritual blessing,” as opposed to a “non-spiritual blessing”? What are the spiritual blessings listed in verses 1:4-6?
3. Why do you think Paul makes sure we know we’ve been blessed in the “*heavenly realms*”? (v.3) (See also II Corinthians 4:16-18, II Kings 6:13-18)
4. Verse 4 says “*He chose us in him before the foundations of the earth.*” Do you think that timing may be significant? If so why? Why not?
5. What is the purpose of being chosen and how might that influence us in our day-to-day lives? (See also Ephesians 5:25-27 and Colossians 1:21-22)
6. From verse 5, when you hear the words “*he predestined us*” what images and ideas come to mind?
7. What are the potential positives and negatives that could come from knowing “*he predestined us to be adopted*”?
8. How does God feel about adopting us as sons and daughters? (v.5)
9. In verse 6, we see God’s grace available to us in large quantities. What hinders, or keeps people from receiving “his glorious grace”?

A MATTER OF PRAYER

10. Think for a moment...that the God of the universe adopted you as His son or daughter. You have all the rights and privileges of the family. The Lord Himself picked you to be in His family. Take a few minutes in your small group to thank Him for adopting you as His own. Ask Him to help all in your group experience the overwhelming joy of being highly valued.

Next Week: Ephesians 1:7-10