

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Week 1 Study

Icebreaker

How would you describe yourself in 10 words or less?

Passage 1 Ephesians 1:1-3

Ephesians is known as a Pauline Epistle. This means that Paul is writing to the church of Ephesus while being imprisoned in Rome. He is writing to the Christians who are experiencing persecution for being a Christian. He is also writing to a multi-ethnic church who has both Jews and Gentiles worshipping together. The book of Ephesians has a main theme of identity. Is it talking to a group of people who need to learn to live like Jesus and find their identity in Christ!

Reflection What types of blessings is Paul referring to? Are these material blessings or spiritual blessings? What blessings has God given to you?

How do these blessings help us to face struggles and how do they motivate us during trials in life?

Passage 2 Ephesians 1:4-6

Some may be troubled by the idea of election listed in this verse. Some may be comforted. Despite your theological view on predestination it appears clear that Paul is saying that we cannot receive Jesus Christ without God's grace. Let's read the following verses and see if it seems that we choose God or are we drawn to God through the Holy Spirit. Read John 10:27-29, John 12:32, 1 Pet. 3:8-9, romans 8:29-30, 2 Thessalonians 2:23-14.

Reflection What do these verses communicate to us? What common theme do they have?

How do we become holy, acceptable, and without blame before God?

What does it mean to you when it says that you have been adopted?

How does knowing that you were chosen before the foundation of the world help you deal with past mistakes, and bring encouragement for the future?

Passage 3 Ephesians 1:7-10

The blessing that comes through Jesus, God's Son, is that all believers have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sins through God's grace. Redemption is a transaction in which one thing is given in exchange for another. Through his death on the cross, Christ gave his perfect life to pay the price of sin for us. So we are freed from the sentence of death. The forgiveness of our sins is a direct result of our redemption. Because of Christ's death on the cross, in God's sight we are completely justified. There is no incompleteness in God's work of grace in Jesus Christ.

Reflection What verb did Paul use to tell us God gave us redemption and forgiveness? v. 8 Why do you think Paul used that verb?

What does it mean to be in Christ?

Why does Paul use the word mystery?

How are God's mysteries being revealed to us? How do we grow in our knowledge, and understanding of the mysteries of God?

Passage 2 Ephesians 1:11-12

When God adopts us as his children, he gives us a complete adoption, holding nothing back. God's children receive all the blessings of inheritance as full children of God. For the Gentile readers of Paul's letter this was incredible news. In other words, God's redemptive plan through the Jewish people is now being fulfilled in the work of Christ for people of all nations, for all who believe in his name. And all of this is for the praise and glory of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Reflection What are some of the spiritual things that we inherit as a child of God?

How does having a purpose alter someone's life, and why is it better for us to trust that the Lord will work out everything in our life according to His will?

What do you feel your purpose is here on earth? What purpose is God calling you to as a believer in Jesus Christ?

Application

Paul uses glorious language to describe that the life of a believer has the powerful working of almighty God, who raised Jesus from the dead. The same God who raised Jesus from death to life has the power to raise us also. This information was especially meaningful for Paul's original readers, who were gentiles. Paul is telling the gentiles who have been rejected that they are not only accepted by God through Jesus, but that they have also received the same inheritance as the Jews. God is not just the God of the Jews, but now the God of everyone who is in Jesus Christ!

How does the thought of being adopted and chosen by God bring you comfort?

Who is it that feels rejected by God, society, and possibly even the church that you can bring the message of hope and the good news of the Gospel to?