



Connect Discussion Guide

08.22.21 Message | Andrew Kovar | Ephesians 1:15-23

Key Scriptures:

In him [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.

- Ephesians 1:7–9

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.

- Ephesians 1:11

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

- Ephesians 1:18

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:19–22

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Ephesians 4:15–16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:11–12

Message Highlights:

- The spiritual blessings we have received in Christ are almost impossible to comprehend, but they can be experienced.
- We have inherited so much through Jesus, but we haven't just inherited a family fortune. We've inherited a family business.

- God has always wanted a family who would work together alongside him to build his Kingdom.
- Jesus wants to build up his body so that he can bring his Kingdom in and through our personal and collective lives.
- The Kingdom of God is on the move. Are you moving with it?

Conversation Starter:

During this sermon, Andrew pointed out the beauty of reading a passage of scripture slowly, taking time to truly digest some of the promises we find throughout the Word. How do you slow yourself down when reading scripture? What tips can you share with your group?

Discuss the Message:

1. Read through Ephesians 1:15-23 again, pausing after each verse. Spend some time pointing out each of the spiritual blessings we've received in Christ with your group. How have you experienced these spiritual blessings?
2. Discuss how Andrew's analogy of inheriting a family business versus a family fortune illustrates Ephesians 1:11.
3. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know were distanced or even disconnected from the body of Christ? What do you know now about the blessings that come from the body of Christ that you had lost sight of when you were distanced?
4. What is your dream job? How have you seen or do you hope to see that dream job being a key part in the kingdom of God? Did your perception of kingdom work change after hearing this sermon?
5. What is your next step? How are you going to make a move from talking about Jesus to living in Jesus? Discuss your next step with your group.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we thank you and praise you for the countless spiritual blessings that you have blessed us with in your Son, Jesus Christ. What an inheritance you have given us! We do not want to be children who sit and wait for our inheritance, only to spend it on ourselves. We want to join you in the family business of advancing your Kingdom through our loving obedience to Jesus. King Jesus, we do not want to merely talk about you. We want to live in you and we want you to accomplish your work in this world through our lives. Empower us by your Spirit to listen and obey your direction as we work to help those around us connect with you and your Body, your Church. Amen.