

EPHESIANS: Week 1 – A Place At The Table

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians with a greeting of grace. It is God's grace that is the source of all the blessings that Paul will discuss. God has not only given us His grace, but He has chosen us, redeemed us, forgiven us, made His will known to us, and accepted us. He has given us the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. Because of these immeasurable blessings, we desire to live for His glory.

Tell the story – Ephesians 1:1-14 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God has overwhelmed believers with incredible spiritual blessings; God has extended to us His wonderful grace, the kindness of God toward undeserving people; God promises to supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory (Phil. 4:19); God came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10); God makes us heirs of a heavenly inheritance; God gives us the incredible gift of His Holy Spirit to dwell within us (I Cor. 6:19); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I do not deserve the grace of God; I should desire to live a holy and blameless life; I did not choose God but He chose me and transformed me so that I might produce spiritual fruit (John 15:16); my sin separated me from a holy God; because of the work of Jesus Christ, I have been set free from the eternal consequences of my sin; I should never allow myself to not live in awe of God's grace; I should want to glorify Jesus Christ with my life; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Paul writes that God's grace has been "lavished" upon us (v. 8). When would you normally use the word lavished? What feelings does this truth bring about in you?
2. Through Jesus we have forgiveness (v. 7). Do you live as if you are forgiven? Explain.

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 1:15-23 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 1 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

A great way to read and hear the story is with the YouVersion Bible app on your phone or tablet (or bible.com on your computer). Let that software read those verses to you while you drive to work, wait in carpool line, or fold clothes. You can also read it with your kids!

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

When someone does not know Christ, or has not accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, they are spiritually dead. The spiritually dead are characterized by unbelief and rebellion. You may see this in their actions and hear it in their conversations.

To shepherd someone who is spiritually dead, pursue a personal relationship with them. Share your life with them so that they see the gospel lived out. As you get to know them more, they will feel comfortable asking you questions about God. They will certainly know that you are not perfect, but make sure you share the difference that God has made in your life.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

No matter your stage of life, chances are you encounter young children either through work, your family, or your neighborhood. So much can be gained from spending time with them. I want to challenge you to take a moment in the next few weeks to spend time with one of them, share God's Word with them. Kids often understand more than we realize. Taking time to share God's Word with them will benefit them tremendously. It will also be beneficial to you. Kids remind us how we should respond to God. They have the child-like faith that Jesus applauded and they show us how to enjoy even the smallest moments. Never underestimate the power of what children can teach us about God!