

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

EPHESIANS: In Christ

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Ephesus was an important coastal city, well-known for its rich history, economic hubs, religious temples, as well as the arts, not unlike Cape Town. Paul's letter to the Ephesian church illuminates how the gospel grows our faith and discipleship, and gives practical insights into living a life pleasing to God, and shows how the gospel engages with culture. Join us as we start our Ephesians journey with the series "In Christ".

Week 4

GOALS

- Deepen our understanding and love of Scripture
- Grow in relationship with each other
- Grow in our understanding of inheritance in the New Testament

TIPS

- This series is theological, it is preferable to have listened to the Sunday messages, especially the person leading the Life Group discussion.
- Life Group Leaders, we suggest doing a little more reading of Ephesians commentary over this series to equip yourself for leading well. It is our hope that over these series, our leaders are going deeper in Scripture to be able to lead out of a richer depth of pursuit and understanding of God and his word. Some good commentaries to consider reading over this time:
- <http://www.slices.org.uk/Slicesforall/sfeEphesians.html>
- <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/ephesians/>

HEADLINES FROM SUNDAY

Faith and Love are the language God speaks, and what Paul gives the Ephesians encouragement for showing.

The TRUTH of what we have heard about our new life in Christ must always grow into the FRUIT of faith and love, as these are the foundations of a Christ follower.

Paul's prayer:

- 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

- And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe

PRAYER

Open in prayer.

DISCUSSION

For week 3 and 4 of Life Groups, we are going to hone in on the subject being brought up on Sunday's of 'inheritance' and hopefully, as a group, you will be able to delve a little deeper into it. Last week, we started with the Old Testament teaching and understanding, and this week, we are looking at the New Testament.

1. Last week we spoke about inheritance, have you thought about it any further? Is there anything that came to mind or changed for you last week, or listening on Sunday?
2. Get some members to read Ephesians 1:13-14, Hebrews 6:17, Acts 20:32, Colossians 1:12, Matthew 19:29, Titus 3:7. What do these passages suggest about inheritance and God's perspective on it?
3. Inheritance seems so much more than just salvation (which is amazing on its own!) ... these passages indicate there is so much more to our inheritance in Christ. Charles Sturgeon said it well:

When we at first come to Christ by faith, we begin to enter into our inheritance, for we obtain the pardon of sin ... Beloved, we are not only absolved, but we are positively delightful to God in Christ Jesus. He accepts our offerings, our prayers, our praises, our heart's love ... Brethren, let us walk in the light, as God is in the light, and have fellowship with him, while the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

4. Someone read: 1 Peter 1:4, Matthew 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13-14. What do these verses say about our inheritance? (imperishable, secure, in Heaven, unfading, reserved with Christ)
5. Life Group Leader read: One day, we will take possession of our portion, our heritage, our full inheritance. John Calvin writes of our inheritance, "We do not have the full enjoyment of it at present. . . . We walk . . . in hope, and we do not see the thing as if it were present, but we see it by faith. . . . And why Seeing that the Holy Spirit reigns in our hearts, we have something for which to give praise even in the midst of all our temptations. . . . [Therefore,] we should rejoice, mourn, grieve, give thanks, be content, wait" (from Calvin's Ephesian sermons, delivered in Geneva, 1558—59).

When we understand and value the glory that awaits us, we are better able to endure whatever comes our way in this life. We can give God praise even during trials because we have His guarantee that we will receive all he has promised:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" ([2 Corinthians 4:17](#)). How do you think really believing this reality of inheritance and kingdom dynamics (the *already* and *not yet* experience of our inheritance in Christ) can help us live more faith-filled and joyous lives?

6. Are there any areas you would like prayer for?

PRAY

Spend some time thanking God for his word and promises. Pray for each other if requests for prayer came up during the evening.