

# 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 3

#### GOALS

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

Personal salvation and identity in Christ

In Christ we have redemption, an inheritance and the kingdom – three ideas that have their root system in the Old Testament and converge, with new meaning added, in Jesus and those who are in Jesus.

These three truths are especially helpful in answering questions related to suffering, purpose and the (apparent) exclusivity of Christianity.

## 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. This week, we will start with the Old Testament teaching and understanding, and next week, the New Testament.

1. What comes to mind when you talk about inheritance (especially in a non-church context)? What do you think culture thinks about it? Is it a good or bad thing? What positive and negative connotations do we associate with inheritance?
2. The dictionary defines inheritance as 'being admitted as heir' – legacy, bequest, birth-right, heritage, provision. It can be property or assets, it can be debt, it can be genetic characteristics, it can be the right of ownership.
3. Someone read Genesis 12:7, and Numbers 27:8-11. What do these passages suggest about inheritance and God's perspective?
4. Someone read: Psalm 78:71; Isaiah 19:25; Zechariah 2:12, Psalm 94:14
5. What do these passages suggest about the people of God and how he views them? Have you ever considered yourself an inheritance before? What do you think about it now?
6. Psalm 16:5 says: "Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure." This passage refers to the privileged position of Israel as God's chosen people and how God is their inheritance. So, as we see in the bible, scriptures transform the concept of inheritance to include the acquisition of spiritual blessings and promises from God. We are his inheritance and he is ours – through him creating us, his promises to us and who he is to us – our inheritance is linked to God eternally. Next week, we will look more at inheritance in the New Testament and practically what it means for us in the 'already' and 'not yet' realities of Kingdom living.

## PRAY

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