

EPHESIANS 1:11-14

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever received an inheritance? What did you get? For most of us the idea of an inheritance is a simple matter of some money from relatives. But God promises his people a far greater inheritance! God promises that our inheritance is found in heaven, eternal life with Him in the glory of a renewed world without sin. This is an incredible promise that we have in Jesus, that the Father is preparing for us. But this inheritance is not simply something of the future, it is a present gift in the Holy Spirit. God the father plans our salvation, God the Son executes the plan, and God the Holy Spirit enacts it in our life. The entire Godhead is revealed to us in the work of salvation, and we are called to praise Him all the more! Let us resound with praise for the inheritance we have in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:11-14

¹¹ 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, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. This passage contains two sentences, what is the point of each sentence? How do they work together? How are they part of the point from vs 3?
2. What is the purpose of our salvation in this passage?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

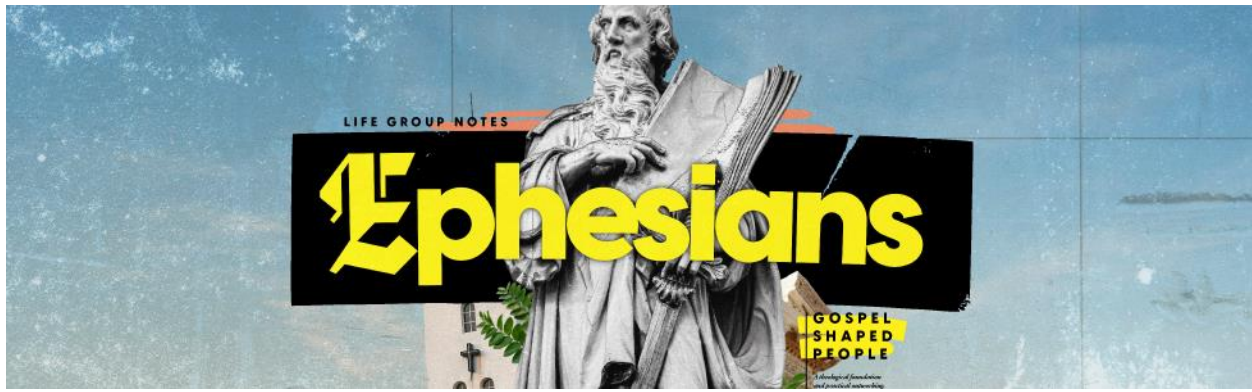
APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

- Agassiz* Describe the inheritance that you have in Christ. What difference does this make in the way you live? What does "hope in Christ" look like? What is the greatest evidence that you personally have been sealed with the Holy Spirit?
- Chilliwack* In light of the symphony of salvation that Paul writes, what aspect of your spiritual blessing in Christ causes your heart to sing most loudly, why? What does being sealed by the Spirit mean for you in terms of living out your faith?
- Harrison/Lake Errock* How does the promise of an eternal inheritance influence your perspective on the challenges and trials you face today? How does the Holy Spirit's sealing in our lives provide assurance and security about our inheritance?
- Promontory* In what way does your life being "in Christ" affect how you live it? How does God's promise of an inheritance for His children in heaven affect our lives today? In what ways do you intentionally live your life "to the praise of His glory"?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*