

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF APRIL 27, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Praise to our Saving God

"If we cannot trust God to have dealt effectively with our past, we may as well throw in the sponge now and have it over with...But if God has indeed pardoned and cleansed us, then we should count it done and waste no more time in sterile lamentations."

-A.W. Tozer

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 1:12-13

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 1:3-14

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Eph 2:6, 2:10, 3:10, 2 Thes 2:13, Rom 9, Col 1:20, Rom 16:25, Mark 1:15, Jam 2:5, Deut 7:6, 26:18

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The types of "blessings" God's people are assured of
 - The purpose for which God has "chosen" and "predestined" his people
 - Our relationship to God in Jesus (v. 5)
 - The types of things we have "in Him" (v. 7)
 - God's will (v. 8)
 - The "plan for the fullness of time"

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- How are you freer to worship God as a result of this truth?

“We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God.” – A.W. Tozer on worship

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 1:2

This Week: Eph 1:7-8

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (April):

Apostles Church will be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

In Response to the Text:

- That we would desire and be grateful for “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”
- That we would pursue lives that are “holy and blameless before him”
- That our adoption and sons and daughters of God would become our core identity (v. 5)
- That we would proclaim the gospel faithfully with our lives that others may also know the “riches of his grace”
- Thanking God that all he does is from love
- Thanking God for his immeasurable wisdom

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Basic Christianity* – John Stott
- *Spiritual Slavery to Spiritual Sonship* – Jack Frost
- *Grace Walk* – Steve McVey
- *Search for Significance* – Robert McGee
- *The Four Loves* – C.S. Lewis
- Monergism Online Commentaries:
http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Commentaries/