

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2.4.26 & 2.11.26

Ephesians: “God’s Plan, Your Purpose”

Lesson Summary:

NOTE: All students will turn in cards tonight during reflection & response time at the end of the lesson; in the next week or so we will provide you with a summary of your students’ responses.

Tonight, Pastor Charles kicks off our spring study in Ephesians by teaching that circumstances don’t change who God is or who we are in Christ, and that we will NEVER understand our purpose until we understand our identity. Walking through Ephesians 1, he emphasizes that in Christ, God calls us blessed, chosen, and secure in Jesus regardless of our performance or circumstances. This lesson invites students to stop believing the labels of the world and instead live from the truth that, in Christ, they are adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and deeply loved by God.

Key Points:

You will NEVER understand your PURPOSE until you understand your IDENTITY

- Purpose doesn’t start with WHAT you do, it starts with WHO you are

3 Things God Says About Who You Are

- 1) In Christ, you are BLESSED
 - a) These blessings are ETERNAL and SPIRITUAL
- 2) In Christ, you are CHOSEN
 - a) You are WANTED
- 3) In Christ, you are GOD’S CHILD
 - a) 2 Characteristics of a Child of God
 - i) In Christ, you are ADOPTED
 - ii) In Christ, you are REDEEMED AND FORGIVEN

Discussion Questions:

1. Did any of you tonight, FOR THE VERY 1ST TIME, put your trust in Jesus (and what He did on the cross) to save you from your sins and lead your life? *Leaders, do NOT skip this question! If you have a student who took this step, celebrate this in a BIG way; it's why we exist as a ministry! As always, be sure and log this as a "God win" on the App and/or share this news with Charles/Cam/Mary or TJ...thank you!*
2. What things do you let define you the most right now (sports, grades, friends, looks, social media)? How do those things affect how you feel about yourself?
Ephesians 1:3–4 (NIV) "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."
3. IF you have placed your trust in Jesus than your identity comes from who you are in Christ—not how well you perform. How might that change the pressure you feel at school, in sports, or with friends?
4. When life goes bad or doesn't turn out the way you hoped, who do you usually start doubting—God, yourself, or both?
 - a. How does knowing you are already blessed in Christ help?
(NOTE: this only applies to those who have placed their trust in Jesus to save them and are now a Child of God)
5. What are some negative words you've believed about yourself? How are those different from what God says is true about you?
6. Knowing that God chose you and wants you, how could that help when you feel left out, compared to others, or not good enough?
Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world..."
7. Do you ever feel forgiven by God but still stuck in shame—or feel free but still guilty? What would it look like to believe you are both forgiven *and* free?
Romans 8:1 (NIV) "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
8. What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually trusting Him with your life and identity? What might be one next step God is asking you to take?