



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Eph. 1:3-14

Prayer:

- Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

- Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read Eph. 1:3-14

Have someone read this overview:

Sermon Summary:

- Commentators say Christianity in North America is too shallow; it's 'a mile wide, but only an inch deep.' They prescribe a deeper engagement with the Trinity—God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Current COVID?restrictions afford us a golden opportunity for a deeper dive. Today's topic, '*God's Mission Changes Everything*,'?points the way. God's mission begins in God's own being in eternity; God is 'missionary' by nature—reaching out to enlarge the community of the Trinity. Ephesians 1 tells how God's mission reached us to change our identity and destiny. Now we are God's people, the church, invited into God's mission, issuing in the praise of God's glory. Exalting, adoring anything or anyone else disappoints; glorifying God fulfills.

Discussion:

1. Was there ever a time in your Christian life when you felt God calling you to go deeper? How did you respond?

2. In the past 6 months of COVID pandemic how has your Christian life changed? Any new experiences or leading?
3. In your own personal history as a Christian, how has the Trinity (triune God) been taught and discussed?
4. In your own history, what (if anything) has motivated you to think (or investigate) about the Trinity?
5. In the terms—"God's mission," "mission of God," what do you understand by "mission"? What words would you suggest as substitutes for "mission"?
6. Traditionally many Christians said 'mission' starts in Mt. 28:19—"Go and make disciples..." What difference does it make to say, "God's Mission begins in the triune God's own being in eternity"?
7. Where do you see God's mission in Eph. 1:3-14? How do you relate the whole passage to God's mission?
8. Eph. 1:3-14 says God's actions are for the "praise of his glory." The Bible says we shouldn't be self-centered; Jesus said "I don't seek my own glory" (Jn. 8:50). How then could God "seek His own glory"? Is God "selfish"/"self-centered"?
9. The NT says "To [God] be glory in the church" (Eph. 3:21); what might that look like? How can the church glorify God?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for a deeper realization and appreciation of the trinity.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.