



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Ephesians 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:

The mission of God is founded in the nature and community of the Triune God. God's mission is to expand His community to include humanity. We together as the church are called to join with God in His mission. However, before we can do that we need to be qualified. In ourselves we are not qualified but the Trinity has worked collectively to qualify us so that we can join His mission.

The Father works in and through the Son and the Son and the Spirit continue the work based on what the Father has done. The Son lavishes his grace on us in redemption and forgiveness of sins. The Spirit seals us, making us God's own possession and also securing our inheritance as children of God both today and in the future. This is all because we have heard and believed the gospel. We really are the most blessed people.

### Discussion:

1. Read this: Here— Eph. 1:3-14—Paul recounts “the larger story [the triune God’s story] within which every single Christian story—every story of individual conversion, faith, spiritual life, [etc.]—is set. Only by understanding the larger story [the triune God’s story] can we hope to understand everything that’s going on in our individual stories...”—N. T. Wright
  - a. Based on what has been shared the past three weeks on Sunday, what is your understanding of “the larger story of God”?
  - b. How does our story fit in with God’s story?
2. Paul says that God gives us his blessings “lavishly” (Eph. 1: 6, 8). How does “lavishly” compare with your understanding or experience ? What prevents you from seeing God’s lavish blessing?
3. Read Eph. 1:11-14. What do you think is our promised inheritance?
4. How do we know that we will receive this inheritance?
5. How do you feel about receiving the full inheritance in the future?
6. Based on Eph. 1:13-14, what is the role of the Holy Spirit?
7. What is your experience of the Holy Spirit? (some verses to help might be: Acts 1:8; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14, 28)

**Suggestion for this week:**

Meditate on all the blessings that the trinity has given you. Thank God for all He has done and is still doing and will do.

**End with Prayer.**

- Pray for a deeper realization and appreciation of the blessings lavished on us.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.