

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 1:3

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Who?** - Blessed be...God.
- **Why?** - Who has blessed us.
- **What?** - With every spiritual blessing.

I. Who?

- Read Ephesians 1:3 and discuss who the main subject of this verse is and why that is significant?
- What does it mean to “Bless God?”
 - **Leaders cheat:** *The Greek word translated “blessed” means to speak well or praise.*
- How does the beginning of verse 3 relate to verse 6, verse 12, and verse 14? According to verses 3-14, what is the purpose of our great salvation?
- Verses 3-14 are about our salvation, but it is radically God-centered. How does this challenge us as believers when we think about our salvation and how we approach the scriptures?

II. Why?

- According to verse 3 – what is a reason we should bless (or praise) God?

- What does it mean that God has “blessed” us? Read the following quote by John MacArthur to help you answer this question. Take some time and discuss the quote.
 - **John MacArthur** - When we bless God we speak good of Him. When God blesses us, He communicates good to us. We bless Him with words; He blesses us with deeds. All we can do is to speak well of Him because in ourselves we have nothing good to give, and in Himself, He lacks no goodness. But when He blesses us the situation is reversed. He cannot bless us for our goodness, because we have none. Rather, He blesses us with goodness. Our heavenly Father lavishes us with every goodness, every good gift, every blessing. That is His nature, and that is our need.
- The phrase “in Christ” is repeated in different forms 11 times in verses 3-14. Why is that significant?

III. What?

- Read and briefly discuss the following 4 facts about how rich Bill Gates is.
 - Bill Gates is the second-richest person in the world even after giving away approximately 27% of his net worth to charity over the years.
 - **In 2017** – he gave \$50 million to Alzheimer’s research.
 - Based on how much money Bill Gates made last year (2018) he makes approximately \$380 per second.
 - If Bill Gates spent \$1 million a day, it would take him about 285 years to spend his fortune.
 - Bill Gates could give every single living person on the planet \$10 – and still have more than \$30 billion left over.
- If you were rich (a billionaire), how would your life be different? What are some things you would do? How would your daily concerns change?
- What does it mean to be spiritually rich?
- **Carefully read through verses 3-14** and as a group point out all the different spiritual blessings we have in Christ.

- How would you live differently if you truly understood how rich you are as a Christian?
- **Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.** Why is it astonishing that Paul would call his afflictions - “light momentary affliction”? What does this tell you about the “eternal weight of Glory?”
 - ***Leaders Cheat:** for help understanding Paul’s sufferings read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. And remember that historically Paul was killed for his faith by being beheaded.*
- **Read Philippians 3:4-8.** How did the knowledge of being spiritually rich enable Paul to live boldly for Christ?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5** and then **2 Corinthians 8:8-9.** How does the deep theology on the wealth of God’s grace encourage us to love sacrificially?
- Have you been living as though the “good news” of salvation is not all that good? Being rich, do you live as though you are not rich? If so, what specific steps can you take this week to live out your great salvation?