

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 1:8-10

Review what the word Redemption means in a biblical context.

- *Leaders Cheat – two definitions*
 - *Redemption is paying a ransom in order to release a person from bondage, especially slavery.*
 - *Someone wealthy buying a slave with the purpose of freeing him or her from slavery.*
- Read Eph. 1:7-10

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Wisdom & Insight**
- **The Mystery of His Will**
- **How it All Ends**

I. Wisdom & Insight

- Read & discuss the following definitions of Wisdom & Insight.
 - **Wisdom** – “Greek word – σοφία” - emphasizes understanding of ultimate things – such as life and death, God and man, righteousness and sin, heaven and hell. Paul is speaking of wisdom concerning things of God.

- **Insight** – “Greek word – φρονησις” - emphasizes practical understanding, comprehension of the needs, problems, and principles of everyday living. It is spiritual discernment in handling daily affairs.
- Do Christians truly have more wisdom & insight than lost humanity? Explain.
- Read Proverbs 1:7 and discuss what you think it means.
- Read and discuss John 9:24-41.
- How does salvation bring sight to the blind?
- Even after salvation what are some blind spots a Christian could have? What are ways a Christian can work on their blind spots?
- What are ways you can help each other in this Growth Group discover and work on “blind spots?”

II. The Mystery of His Will

- What is a “Mystery” in Scripture?
 - **Leaders cheat:** Typically (but not always) a “Mystery” is a truth that was unknown in the past but now has been revealed to us in the New Testament.
- **Read and discuss Ephesians 3:1-6** as an example of a “Mystery.” What was the mystery and how was it revealed?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:10** and discuss how New Testament saints are blessed to have a clearer picture of God’s plan for redemption. **Read Romans 8:31-32** to help answer this question.
- How does Romans 8:31-32 help encourage us to live boldly and sacrificially for Christ?
- How is God still the great giver when we are the ones sacrificing?
 - **Leader’s Cheat:** we are sacrificing worldly things for greater gifts promised and given by God. If your group is struggling with this concept have them read Hebrews 11:24-26 and point out that Moses sacrificed the wealth of Egypt for a greater reward.

III. How It All Ends.

- Read and discuss Ephesians 1:10.
 - **Kent Hughes** - Thus all redeemed souls, all the universe, and all the faithful angelic hosts, literally everything in Heaven and on earth – everything material, everything spiritual, everything within, without, above, and below will be united in Christ. This is the blessing of the universe!
- Read and discuss Colossians 1:15-20.
- How does Colossians 1:19 relate to the definition of Redemption talked about earlier?
- Read and discuss Romans 8:18-22.
- Why is Romans 8:18 such an incredible statement? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
 - **Commentator** - Weighed in the scales of true and lasting values, the sufferings endured in this life are light indeed, compared with the splendor of the life to come.
- Why is Creation groaning?
- Paul said that creation is longing for a new age (Rom. 8:19). What part of creation was he referring to? Explain.
- What is creation waiting for?
- What does it mean that “the creation was made subject to vanity?” (Rom. 8:20)
- Who subjected creation to its futility? Why?
- **Read Revelation 21:1-4** and discuss what this tells us about the New Age? What about the New Age are you most looking forward to?
- How does Revelation 21:1-4 relate to Eph. 1:10?
- How does the knowledge of the New Age (especially Romans 8:18) encourage us to live boldly and sacrificially for the kingdom of Christ?
- What ways in your life could you be challenged to live more boldly and sacrificially?