



## ephesians together

### Review

What stood out to you from the sermon? Initial comments, questions, reactions?

#### *Main Points: New Status*

1. **How we are saved?** From God's perspective – He chose us. He searched for us, He pursued us, He came for us, and He gave His Son for us (v.4, 5, and 11).
2. **What does it mean to be saved?** We are moved from alienation to adoption (v.5). We are moved from guilt and shame to being forgiven and washed clean (v.7-8).
3. **Why we are saved?** We are the beginning of the restoration of all things, to the praise of his glorious grace (v.10, 12, and 14).

### Reflect

Read Ephesians 1:3-14 as a group.

1. **Focus on v.3-5. Also read Luke 15:1-10.** How does it describe God, and His actions towards us? What is the basis for God's choosing us? **Then read Romans 3:10-12.** How are we described? How does that shape how you view God and your salvation? Do you have an easy or hard time with this idea, why? (Visit John 21:18-23 for the interaction Pastor Joe mentioned of Jesus and Peter).
2. **Focus on v. 5. What does it mean to be saved?** What comes to mind when you think of adoption? With Joe's illustration of Stephanie's adoption in mind, does anything make it difficult to view yourself as a son or daughter of God?
3. **Focus on v. 7-8. What does God do here?** What sort of vision of grace is presented here? Is that similar or different to how you normally think about grace? How so? Joe shared his experience in the Dominican Republic about being cleansed by the waterfall. Have you had an experience like that, physically or spiritually? What was your experience?
4. **Focus on v.10. Why are we saved?** We are saved to help bring that restoration. How does that change your view of following Jesus? If you could pick one thing to be restored, what would it be?

### Respond

Application.

1. **Adopted:** If you can picture a perfect Father-child relationship, what sorts of ways would it make sense for a child to respond to his/her Father? Make a list. What's one thing on the list for you to do?
2. **Forgiven:** Have you experienced the forgiveness and washing found in Jesus? Are there ways you long to receive his grace and His washing today? What helps you receive and trust His forgiveness?
3. **Restoration:** As you reflect on the restoration of all things, how do you see God using you and/or your group to be agents of that kind of restoration? How do you hope God would use you? In particular, talk through ways you can share the good news of this passage with others.

### Pray

Go around as a group and ask for prayer requests. Pray as a group together.

## *Dig Deeper*

If you have time, read Romans 8:12-17.

### *Main Points:*

1. **Focus on v.14.** What sort of life is described here for the adopted children of God? What is a life led by the Spirit look like? See v.12-13 for insight. What sorts of things would be put to death, and how does that happen? We now have freedom to do the will of God rather than our own, and to pick the salad and not the meat. How can you pick salad this week?
2. **Focus on v.15.** We can now cry out to God as Father now, just like Jesus. This creates an intimate and personal relationship with God. What kind of Father do you see God as? It seems to be this great cry of joy, “Abba! Father!” What makes it such a joyous cry for you?
3. **Focus on v.17.** There is another benefit of adoption, and there is an inheritance. We are told that we are heirs with Christ. If we go back to the restoration idea, what kind of inheritance awaits us? What is included as you read Revelation 20:3-4?

## *Announcements*

Please share with your group!

1. **Men’s Breakfast** is coming up on Saturday, September 15. Tickets are \$8 - register online.
2. **Family Fall Fest** is September 22 we have a FREE fun event for families and their kids. Lunch is provided. More information on the church website.
3. **Women’s Fall Retreat** is September 28- 29 we will be focused on applying spiritual disciplines to your everyday life and enjoying the company of other women. Price varies on room preferences.
4. **Employment Transition Advisor Group:** If you are looking for a great and simple way to serve, look no further than here. Whether you realized it or not, CCC has a great ministry to help people who are in a job transition. There is an opportunity to be an advisor for them and help them find their next position, while also providing support in this transition. Women advisors are in particular need. Contact Frank Zammataro at [ftransition1@gmail.com](mailto:ftransition1@gmail.com) if you are interested.