



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of October 29, 2017

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Ephesians 1:1-14 “A Royal Marriage, By Faith Alone”

This week, Howard Griffith preached on [Ephesians 1:1-14](#).

- The church needs ongoing reformation because we so often struggle with the reason *why* God loves us. All of us are tempted to “cut deals” with the Lord to gain His love & favor. When in one time you were tempted to try to cut a deal with God? How did that go?

Read Ephesians 1:3-6. To be in Christ is to have Eternal Union with God.

- The phrase “in Christ” occurs more than 150 times in the New Testament and “in Christ” is repeated often in the book of Ephesians. In your own words, what does it mean to be “in Christ”?
- List the words and phrases Paul uses to describe the blessings the Church receives in Christ.
- If you set yourself up as a contributor to your salvation, you only set yourself up as an idol. What does this passage teach us about why & when we were chosen by God?

Read Ephesians 1:7-10. To be in Christ is to have Representative Union with God.

- List the blessings Paul describes in vv.7-10. Which blessing are you most grateful for today? Why?
- Jesus accomplishes our redemption through what we often call a “glorious exchange” as our representative. What is exchanged?

Read Ephesians 1:11-14. To be in Christ is to have Living Union with God.

- How dearly you are loved shapes how you live. What difference has it made recently that Jesus loves you and you walk with Him by grace?
- Paul writes this letter while chained in a Roman prison. Yet, he glories in the truth that he is chosen and loved in Jesus Christ. Share a hard circumstance where you would like to trust Jesus and glory in the Gospel. Pray for one another.
- Paul can’t help but list blessing after blessing in Christ as he writes this letter. Spend time in prayer blessing God for all the ways He has blessed His Church.

*Questions about this week’s study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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