

The Year of Jubilee Life Group Curriculum



Groups

Me, Me, Me, or GOD Ephesians 1:3-14

Sugar Grove Church of Christ 11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups 2007

Connect: *Find out how everyone is doing; this will give you an opportunity to better know how to encourage and minister to each other.*

- ◆ If your group has guests or new members take some time to make sure everyone knows each other.
- ◆ What has been a high and low point in everyone's life in the last week?

Background

- ◆ Many of the New Testament epistles are written to address a problem but Ephesians is different, it was written by Paul to expand the spiritual horizons of its readers.
- ◆ The New Living Translation is a good translation to use when studying chapter 1 of Ephesians because it uses language to keep us from getting stuck in a discussion about free will or predestination because both concepts miss the point of the intent of the chapter.

Prepare

- ◆ What is the best, most amazing, incredible, wonderful thing that has ever happened to you aside from God offering the gift of grace through Jesus Christ?

Grow

- ◆ Read Ephesians 1:3-5

“How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.” (NLT)

 - Sometimes parents will talk about an unplanned or unwanted child but there is no such thing as an unwanted adoption. Adoption always involves a decision followed by a great deal of effort and cost to adopt a child.
 - When did God decide to adopt us?
 - What has been involved in the process of God adopting us as his children?
 - What has been the cost for God to adopt us as his children?
 - What do we receive when God adopts us?
 - How much does it tell us about God's love for us that he has been working for so long to bring about our adoption so that we can become his children?
 - How should God's choice to adopt us impact our lives and our attitudes? How does it impact your life?

-Read Ephesians 1:6-8, 12

“So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.. God’s purpose was that we who were the first to trust in Christ should praise our glorious God..” (NLT)

-Paul places all of the focus upon God in these verses and even says in verse 12 that God’s plan is for us to praise God- all of the focus is upon God. But why?

-Why does Paul place all of the focus upon God and why does God expect all of the focus to be upon Him?

-What would happen if the focus was upon anything other than God?

-Where is the focus of your life?

Is it upon God or yourself?

Is it upon God or how he is saving us?

What might the consequence be of placing the focus upon ourselves or upon how God is saving us instead of upon God?

-Read Ephesians 1: 13-14

“And now you also have heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us everything he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God.” (NLT)

-In Ephesians 5:18 Paul tells us to let the Holy Spirit “fill and control your life.”

-How much do you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life?

-How do we allow the Holy Spirit to control our life?

-What needs to happen in your life so that the focus of your life is upon God and so that you allow the Holy Spirit to be in control?

Prayer:

- ◆ Spend a few moments having your group’s prayer coordinator gather prayer requests from your group.
- ◆ Lift up your group’s prayer requests and ask God to teach us how to put the focus of our life upon God. *Consider inviting each person in the group to pray.*

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