

Ephesians 1:3-6

Discussion Questions

- Opener: Do you feel blessed? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

1. What do we learn about God's big plan in these verses?
2. What roles do the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit play in this plan?
3. What is the ultimate goal of God's big plan? (cf. 6, 12, 14)
4. Christians often speak of "God's will" in terms of personal 'guidance' e.g. which job I should take, who to marry etc. In Ephesians 1, God's "will" refers to his big plan to save his people and bring himself glory.
5. How might understanding God's big plan actually help us when it comes to making important decisions in life?
6. How does focusing on God's big plan keep us from becoming discouraged when our plans fail?
7. How can we help each other remember the big picture Paul paints?

Read verses 3-6 again

1. According to these verses, in what specific ways has God blessed us?
2. How do these verses point to the fact that we contribute nothing to our salvation?
 - a. We often forget the fact that we contribute nothing. We begin to believe we are worthy or deserve something from God. How might this explain why we don't *feel* blessed?
 - b. If God has blessed you by loving and choosing you when you didn't deserve it, what should your attitude be: i) toward God ii) toward other people?
3. Spend some time now praising God for all of the ways he has blessed you, including the fact that he has loved you and chosen you.
4. Think of one practical way to show undeserved, God-like kindness to someone else before we meet again. Pray for God to open up a door for you to point that person to Him.