

## “Inheritance Living”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### Message Summary

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then, in his joy goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field (Matthew 13:44). Jesus teaches a simple principle of the kingdom of heaven in this passage that the treasure of heaven is far more valuable than any sacrifice we will ever have to make on this earth. Paul takes this same principle and expounds it in his letter to the Ephesians.

Before even giving thanks for the believers in the churches, Paul lays out a blessing for the believers that unpacks God's character in his plan, in his provision of the cross, and the inheritance God has already given believers. He does this to demonstrate for us that what we have been given will cause us to joyfully praise him forever.

First, Paul addresses God's plan for us. He uses phrases such as "from the foundations of the earth," "he chose us," he predestined us," and "adopted us" to show us both the size of the plan and how knowledgeable God is of even small details. Because of God's careful planning and power to carry it out, we can joyfully trust him.

Paul then examines God's provision of Jesus on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. God has made his abundant mercy clear, and just as he has shown abundant mercy, we are abundantly forgiven. He has given us a guarantee of our adoption by giving each of us the Holy Spirit. This sacrifice of such value, and then this deposit of such value seen in proper view presses us to submit our lives to his lordship in greater and greater ways.

The truths of God that Paul writes in this passage are the fuel for everything else he writes in his letter to the Ephesians. He sees these truths stirring believers to live lives that are holy and blameless and lived to the praise of God's glory. This includes our view of salvation, our relationships in the church, how we live among unbelievers, our relationship with our spouse, how we love others, how we parent, how we use our time, how we work, how we speak and many other areas all of which Paul goes on to address in this letter.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community consider the work God has done in your life, and how he will use that to impact your community around you. Think of ways to challenge and encourage one another to live joyfully for the praise of his glory.

Consider discussing the following two propositions:

I cannot be any more joyful than I am right now. OR I would be more joyful if \_\_\_\_\_. Which one is truth, and which one do we typically find ourselves living under? Why?

### Message Outline

What is the main point?

What we have been given, will cause us to joyfully praise Him, forever.

1. We can trust in his plan, joyfully (3-6).
  - Plan is eternal (4).
  - Plan is adoption (5).
  - Plan is for a purpose (4).
2. We can trust in his death, joyfully (7-10)
  - Forgiveness comes through the cross (7).
  - We are as forgiven as He is merciful (7-8).
  - God is good for His word (9).
  - Reconciliation is coming (10).
3. We can trust in his inheritance, joyfully (11-14)
  - We already have The Holy Spirit. (11)
  - He's working all things according to his will. (11)
  - He's given us a guarantee. (13-14)

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### **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Ephesians 1:1-14:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

### **Weekly Prayer Focus**

- **Church:**
  - Pray for families who will attend the First Steps Child Dedication class in September as well as the Child Dedication Service in October.
  - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
  - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
  - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
  - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
  - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
  - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
  - Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.