Ephesians 1:13-14

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

 Have you ever seen the way wax is used to seal a letter, a bottle, or even a jar? Check out <u>this video</u> to see a wax seal made with a signet ring, which serves as a signature of the author. (https://youtu.be/BWP3qb-Gzro)

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- Remember what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to follow up on this week?
- Review your Sermon Notes together. What is one thing that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- Read this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat explained two more gifts that we
 have been given in Christ.

In Christ, we have Special Insight from God (Ephesians 1:7-10):

1. New Revelation

 In Jewish literature, the idea of "mystery" meant the secret plan of God made clear in the end. In Luke 24, the resurrected Jesus explains the mystery of salvation to two disciples. Tell your group about the first time you remember someone explaining the Gospel to you. How did you respond?

2. Clear Salvation

 Luke 24:3 says that the eyes of the two disciples were "opened, and they recognized" Jesus. God gave them clarity! What were some of the areas in your life that became clear when you trusted Christ as your Savior?

3. Divine Illumination

• The disciples who were with Jesus had their eyes opened and their hearts burned inside them when they heard Jesus speaking. Be honest, how often does your heart burn with worship when you read Scripture, pray, or learn together with others? Why do you think that's true of you?

In Christ, we have been Sealed (Ephesians 1:13-14):

1. Seals declare that the transaction is complete

• On the cross, Jesus said that the penalty for our sin was "tetelestai" - it was finished and paid in full (John 19:30). If salvation has been completely paid for by Christ's death on the cross, why do you think people still try to earn it?

2. Seals declare that the ownership is confirmed

• Like a brand on a log or a signature on a receipt, the Holy Spirit's seal on a Believer declares that he/she belongs to the Lord. How does it change the way you see your relationship with God to know that He has put His signature on you to declare that you are His?

3. Seals declare that the promise is certain

• The seal of the Holy Spirit is like an engagement ring - a promise of something to come. What are some of the promises of God that you are clinging to for right now and the future?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

Guarantees are only as good as the trustworthiness of the person behind the promise. As a group,
 thank God for the promise that salvation is forever - and that God Himself is the One Who guarantees it.

