

UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Ephesians 1:3-5a

PAT NEMMERS

September 19, 2021

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 left a gift unopened or unused for a while? Or, have you asked for something specific, received it, only to realize it wasn't as useful as you thought it would be?

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 unwrapped four great gifts found within the great gift of being in Christ.**

Four Great Gifts within the Great Gift of being in Christ:

1. In Christ you are BLESSED (Ephesians 1:3 and 6)

- How do you think the world would define the word, "blessed"?
- Can you think of some other passages in the Bible that use the word, "blessed"? How might those passages help us understand what it really means to be blessed in Christ?
- As a group, talk about how you have been truly blessed.
- **Lesson #1 - We bless God because He first blessed us**
 - Pause right now and praise God by completing the phrase, "God, I bless you because..."

2. In Christ you are CHOSEN (Ephesians 1:4)

- The idea that God has chosen us has led some to imagine that He picks people for His family that He knew would do great things for Him. What's the danger in this misunderstanding?
- Read **Deuteronomy 7:7-8; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; and Romans 9:11-13**. How do these passages help us understand this concept of God's choosing us?
- In one word, respond to the truth that God has chosen you if you are a believer.
- **Lesson #2 - We choose God because He first chose us**

3. In Christ you are PREDESTINED (Ephesians 1:5 and 11)

- To be "predestined" means that God marked out our path (even the difficult parts) beforehand. Some people are bothered by that truth. How do you feel about it?
- What are some difficult circumstances God has allowed in your life that have actually made you more like Jesus?

4. In Christ you are LOVED (Ephesians 1:4b-5)

- Mark 10:21 says, "Jesus, looking at him, loved him." Say that phrase again, but use your name instead of "him". How does it make you feel to hear that Jesus loves YOU personally?
- **Lesson #3 - We love God because He first loved us**
 - Think about this past week - how did you show God that you love Him?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and your group will live in light of God's incredible blessings this week.

