



Ephesians 1 9.14.11

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians while he was imprisoned in Rome, around AD 60. Ephesus was a proud, rich, busy port at the end of the caravan route from Asia. Because of this, the culture and religion was subject to constant influence from pagan cultures. The first chapter describes God's plan to bring us to himself through Christ, the spiritual blessings we have been given, as well as thanksgiving.

New Groups:

Begin by taking a few minutes for each person to introduce him/herself. Share what brought you to this study on Ephesians.

Continuing Groups:

Move directly to the discussion section, or adapt to your existing meeting format:

Study/Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ?
2. Which of these blessings, promised by God, do you hold onto in your life?
3. Paul says in vs. 16 that he has "not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Share the name of someone you are thankful for.
4. Are you thankful for what this person has *done*, or who that person *is*? Explain the difference.
5. Think of someone that has powerful faith. What are the evidences of his or her faith?

For deeper study and discussion (as time allows):

Ephesians 1:4-5

1. What does "predestination" mean to you?
2. If you are predestined to conform to God's will, what is your responsibility in the process?

Ephesians 1:11

1. What is so special about being "chosen?"
2. Share an experience when you followed *God's* will, as opposed to *your* own will. Did it make a difference in the outcome?

Closing Prayer