

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Galatians 5:13 -15 and 22-23a with your kids at dinnertime and then discuss the following questions:

- 1) Why do you think that God is calling us to grow in the fruits of the Spirit?
- 2) Which fruit is the most challenging for you and why?
- 3) Think about a conflict that you had recently. How would the conflict have been better if you exhibited more of the fruits of the Spirit?

After you finish your discussion time, encourage each person in your family to pick one fruit to commit to growing in this week and pray for each other.

Parents: your kids will probably be unsure of how to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. Reassure them that God knows their hearts and their struggles, and that He promises to help them. Then, remind them that all they need to do is decide in their hearts that they want to be more like Jesus, and ask God in prayer to help them be more like His Son. This is also a good time to teach your kids how to look up scriptures that relate to the fruit that they desire to grow in.



April 15, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

Chosen for _____

Ananias' view of God's Grace:

- It was Paul's fault that everyone wasn't excited about God's GRACE choice.
- Expect people to be skeptical, even cynical...you would be.
- People can often be very forgiving but don't want to be taken advantage of.
- Trust is earned.
 - Prove the change with time and action.
- Everyone be patient!

Ephesians 1:6-10

Chosen to _____

"So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." *Ephesians 1:6*

Chosen for _____

He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth." *Ephesians 1:8-10*

"...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control." *Galatians 5:22-23a*

- Which of these fruit is God calling out of you?
- Why is He calling that out of you?
- Who can help you develop this fruit?

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 15, 2018

MY STORY

Each week this section titled *My Story* will look back to last week's study and ask questions about what our takeaways were and how we are applying what we are learning. Since this is Week One, we will only have one question.

- 1) What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this study?

QUICK REVIEW

This section is a review of Sunday's message.

- 2) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NLT)

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.

²May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

- 3) From last week's message, what are some of the things you remember about Saul/Paul?
- 4) When Paul greets the church with the words "grace and peace," is that just a flowery phrase by Paul or is there a deeper meaning? What is the deeper meaning?
- 5) What relationship do grace and peace have with one another?

Last week Pastor Craig described a few different incorrect responses to grace. One was that a person becomes defined by their past and is never able to live under the freedom that God's grace provides. The second is that a person behaves as if their past never happened. They act like they have never been sinful and have always been a saint. Pastor taught us that the correct response is to remember where we came from without letting it define us while living in the freedom and peace God's grace provides.

- 6) Have you ever lived in one of those two responses to grace? What was it like?

Ephesians 1:3-10

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

- 7) Pastor Craig taught us that we were chosen to belong. From the passage, what are we chosen to belong to and how does that make you feel?
- 8) In Verse 5, what did God feel about bringing us into the family of God? How does His response make you feel?

TAKING IT HOME

The second thing Pastor Craig taught us that we are chosen for is revelation.

- 9) From the passage in Ephesians, what is the mystery God revealed in Christ?
- 10) What are some of the signs that God is beginning to rule in our hearts?

Galatians 5:22-23a

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control.

- 11) From the list of the fruit of the Spirit, on a personal level, which one is God revealing to you that He wants you to grow in?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week the goal is to pray about each one of the fruits of the Spirit and answer the following questions about each one. Fill in the blanks provided with each one of the characteristics listed below.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- 12) What is God teaching me about _____?
- 13) Where do I see God growing _____ in me?