

## Life Group Homework

For the week of April 29, 2018

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### MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) Were you able to share Jesus with anyone this week, and if so, how did it go?

### QUICK REVIEW

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

### DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 1:13b-14(NIV)

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- 4) How did Christ identify us as His own?
- 5) What was the purpose of sealing something in this verse? (not referring to keeping something air tight)
- 6) What does it mean to put a deposit on something?
- 7) If you were to place a deposit on something, what does that say about your value of the item?
- 8) If a deposit is considered a guarantee of final payment, or in God's case to return for believers, how does that make you feel?

Last week we discussed that we are chosen to point to Jesus. One of the amazing things about God is that He doesn't expect us to do that alone. We have a helper.

Mark 13:9-11(NLT)

<sup>9</sup> "When these things begin to happen, watch out! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. <sup>10</sup> For the Good News must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup> But when you are arrested and stand trial, don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

- 9) Jesus is teaching about following Him in the verses above. From these verses, are we promised a life free from trouble or persecution?

Acts 1:8

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- 10) What does the verse say will happen when the Holy Spirit comes upon us?
- 11) What will the power of the Holy Spirit do in our lives?

### TAKING IT HOME

The last point Pastor Craig talked about was choosing to depend on Christ. This is our response to choosing to live in grace and letting it empower our lives. Next we will unpack a couple of thoughts about the Apostle Paul learning to walk in the Spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 12:6-10 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, <sup>7</sup> even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

<sup>8</sup> Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. <sup>9</sup> Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

<sup>10</sup> That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- 12) What was God's response to Paul after his requests to have the thorn in his flesh taken away?
- 13) What was Paul's response regarding his weakness, and what can we learn from him?
- 14) How is God's grace shown in weakness?
- 15) Can you relate in some way to Paul's struggle? If so how, and what do you do with it?

### CHAIR TIME TOOL

Reread the passages in this study and answer the following questions.

- 16) What does it mean for you personally to be chosen to receive God's Spirit?
- 17) How will you depend more on God's Spirit?
- 18) What are the weaknesses in your life that give the opportunity for God's grace to be demonstrated?

### FAMILY RESOURCES

Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 with your kids and then answer the following questions together:

- 1) Share a struggle that you are currently dealing with or that you have dealt with in the past. Have you prayed and asked God to take it away?
- 2) What happened? What did you learn from your struggle? (Parents: this is a great opportunity to explain to your kids that God does not cause struggles or bad things to happen to us. But, He does allow them if He knows that they will produce good things in our lives. Read James 1:17 with your kids and then focus the discussion on how the family member has grown as a result of the hardship.)
- 3) How can you take what you have learned from your weaknesses, struggles and hardships to encourage someone else?

Take turns sharing prayer requests and end in prayer.

April 29, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

*Ephesians 1:13-23*

### Chosen to receive the **Spirit** of God

"And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people." *Ephesians 1:13-14*

### You are not **alone** when you point to Jesus.

- "...don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit." *Mark 13:11*

### **Empowered** to point to Jesus

- "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..." *Acts 1:8*
- **Confidence comes with presence.**  
*John 14:*
  - "Never leave you" (vs. 16)
  - "Leads you into all truth" (vs. 17)
  - "You are in me and I am in you" (vs. 20)
  - "The advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and remind you of everything I have told you." (vs. 26)
- **THE PROBLEM: We don't BELIEVE HIM!**

### An invitation to **FAITH**

"...asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance." *Ephesians 1:17-18*

My 5:

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**A STUDY IN EPHESIANS**

