

MOORPARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Discussion Questions for Ephesians 1:1-14
Week of 2/4/18

1. **Open your group time with a brief prayer, inviting God's Spirit to lead you.**
2. Begin your time together with one minute of silent prayer (timed). Before you do, suggest that in this time of silent prayer, we each might offer all that comes to our minds as a prayer to God, while also opening ourselves to everything God has for us in this time.
3. **Now tell everyone you'll start by practicing what's called "Lectio Divina" (prayerful reading).** Ask everyone to close their eyes while you slowly read Ephesians 1:1-14 out loud. Ask everyone to LISTEN for the words and phrases that especially speak to each of them.

After reading the passage, pause for a time of silent listening, and then read the passage again slowly. Ask everyone to notice what God is bringing to their attention **in this passage as God's loving invitation to them.**

4. Now ask everyone to share what has stood out **to them. What are God's unique invitations to each person in this passage?**
5. Focus on verses 1-2. Here we see where Paul gets his authority from, and also what his greatest hope in writing this letter is. What are these things?
6. Now focus on verses 3-10. **Here we see ALL we've been given in Jesus before the time of creation.** What are these amazing gifts?

Tell a story about a special gift you've received from God.

7. Now focus on verses 11-14. **Here we see why we've been "chosen" by God—** what our SHARED eternal destiny is. What is our eternal destiny?
Hint: Look again at verses 3, 6, 12, and the closing phrase of verse 14.

What gets in your way when it comes to you fulfilling your eternal destiny, and what most helps you?

8. **Pray for one another related to all you've shared.**
Also pray for any other particular need you've brought to this time.

For next week: Prayerfully live with Ephesians 1:15-23 each day this next week so you can come to our next meeting ready to share what God has said to you.