





# THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

## SIGN SEALED DELIVERED

**EPHESIANS 1:7-14** 

Praise as an expression of faith connects you to God
And what He has done for you

WEEK 2

As some of you know, I was born on the fourth of July, though I won't tell you how long ago. It was a family tradition to celebrate my birthday with the customary watching of fireworks, a great American pastime celebrating our nation. Because I am a bottom-line kind of guy, it took a lot of patience to wait for the grand finale when all the fireworks would be exploding simultaneously. But once that happened, it was always a sight to behold. A continuous, powerful, and glorious display. I think that's what was happening in Paul's mind and heart as He was, under the inspiration of God's Spirit, writing this section of Ephesians. After the standard salutation, His mind was filled with a relentless barrage of God's blessings made available to Jews and Gentiles in Christ Jesus. These spiritual blessings are like a deep current constantly running in the life of the Christian, causing him or her to have a fruitful and flourishing life. Tapping into that current through praise connects us continually to these ever-present blessings, settling our hearts, filling us with peace, and fueling us with power as we seek to advance God's kingdom through gospel preaching and Spirit-led praying.

#### (10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray that God would give you a deeper understanding of redemption, inheritance, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit. Pray that you will overflow with spiritual life as you connect to the current of God's blessings.

#### (25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. What does it mean to be redeemed? According to Ephesians 1:7-10, how are we redeemed? Explain what happens to your sins when you believe in Jesus.

1 Peter 1:18 "Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."

2. There are two ways to view the inheritance mentioned in Ephesians 1:11. First, God is the eternal inheritance of the Christian. Second, Christians are God's eternal inheritance. Consider both of these and write down reflections as to what each means. Also, include Scripture verses. What does this mean to you personally?

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

3. Paul lays out in simple terms the trajectory of every true Christian. The gospel is heard and believed, and then the Holy Spirit seals. How important is it for the gospel to be shared with people, and is gospel proclamation something you intentionally pursue in your everyday relationships? What does it mean to be sealed by the Holy Spirit? How does that impact your confidence that you will be with God one day.

The gift of self-determination, the capacity to choose, was given by God so that you could first and foremost choose Christ and His gospel

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Encouraging one another with the principles of redemption, inheritance, and the sealing of God's Spirit. Discuss how you can more effectively share the gospel with friends, family members, and colleagues. As you discuss these ideas, hold one another accountable for doing them.

### (5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. As you connect to the rich blessings of God's grace through redemption, inheritance, and the presence of God's Spirit, expect an overflow of love, joy, and power in your life. Make it your aim to share the good news with people so they can choose Jesus and have a gospel-centered life.