



Life Group Notes

Who am I? Our True Identity

Session 3: I am chosen

Opening questions:

- Have you had the experience of being chosen for some special role? To present a posy to a celebrity, or be a bridesmaid or best man, or represent your school or business at an important event? How did it feel? Or maybe you were the one who was never chosen, when names were being called to play in a team; or you didn't get the job you applied for. How did you feel?
- What do you do, when you have to make an important choice?

Read: Ephesians 1. 3-14, aloud and then again silently. Here are some suggested ways to approach this passage.

- This is mind-blowing! The language is eloquent! Before trying to unpack what Paul means, each member of the group could choose a word, phrase or sentence which has particularly impacted them, share it and turn it into a brief prayer of thanksgiving.
- How does Paul take us out of the everyday world, into the sweep of God's eternal plans and purposes, from the beginning to the end of time? Is this new territory to you, and how do you feel at the thought that God chose you before the foundation of the world?
- Trace, through these verses, what Paul says believers have been chosen for. Do you feel you are living in this reality? *
- Can you point to a specific time when you chose to give your life to Jesus? (Not everyone can.) How does the concept of predestination (verse 11) fit alongside that of free will? Don't expect to find an answer to this question because it remains one of the great paradoxes of Christian theology!**
- You may find this a helpful examination of the meaning of 'the mystery of God's will' (verse 9-10) <https://www.truthforlife.org/devotionals/alistair-begg/7/15/2024/>
- Notice the intertwined workings of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in this passage. What does Paul say is the role of the Holy Spirit, in making our experience of these truths real? What do you understand by the metaphors of a seal and a deposit?

Living it out

How will the knowledge that God has chosen me change my understanding of my identity?

- See John 15.16 for Jesus' words to his friends, on the eve of his crucifixion.
- Listen to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

Notes

*Verse 5 The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.

**For further study: <https://www.gotquestions.org/before-the-foundation-of-the-world.html>