



These additional questions are to help you to get your group talking, but do not be constrained by them. If you have your own questions they are more likely to be relevant to your group and your context than these.

There are not necessarily right answers to any of the questions, the aim of the study is to engage with the scriptures and for God to speak to the people present and the group as a whole. He will be emphasising different things in different places and situations.

In many studies there are too many questions for most groups, so some time beforehand thinking and praying about which are the best questions to use is always important.



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Ephesians Chapter 1:1-14 (modernisedAV)

Leaders' Material

Additional suggested questions to help you to get the most out of your group

Lead Question

Supplementary Questions

Paul
confidently
call himself
Apostle,
how do
you describe
yourself?
Do you
see yourself
as God
sees you?

Do we think of ourselves in different ways depending on which relationships we are thinking about (family, work, church, etc)?

How do you think God would describe you?

Who is this
letter
addressed to?

How would you address a letter to your church?

An individual?
A group?

Which words might you use to collectively describe the people in it?

Is he using
the word
saints in
the way
we might use
it today?

"Count your
blessings"
Can you list
the ways in
which we are
blessed?

See how long a list you can gather between you. Some will be day to day things such as health (for some!), others will be spiritual promises given by God. All are valid!

Which
blessings are
you particularly
aware of?

Where are
our blessings?

Who does the
us & we
refer to?
To whom was
the letter
addressed
(see v1)?
Is it *me* the
individual who
was
predestined
or is it the
body of saints
corporately?

What does the idea of God having a plan for our lives mean to members of the group?

Do we ever think of that plan as being for us together as the Church, or do we only see it as an individual thing?

Leaders' Material

Lead Question

Supplementary Questions

Redemption:
"re-purchase,
as of something
sold"

See Psalm 103 v 4. Redeemed and then Crowned.

What/who were
we sold to?

Does the idea of redemption shape our worship or our lives, or is it a concept we don't think about?

What were we
bought back
from?

Why did Jesus have to shed blood and die in order to redeem us?

If God has
already
abounded
grace to us,
why does
Paul pray
in verse
2

Grace...Redeemed and the Crowned undeservedly

"Grace be to
you?"

Does God's grace stop at redemption?

In what other ways does God continue to show us grace?

How can we pass grace on to others?

What is
our
inheritance?

What other things does the Bible include in our inheritance? (a concordance might be handy here, or go to www.biblegateway.com and look up the word inheritance)

Discuss,
then see
Genesis 15:1

Is this inheritance something for today, or just for eternity?

What is
our purpose?

Do we have to have a purpose in life?

How do we
achieve this?

Does it matter if it is not directly related to God (ie, are all jobs valid for Christians)?

Or does He
do it
all in us
and for us?

As long as we are 'committed to God', do we have to do anything more in order to fulfill His will?

Compare
with verse
4.

The process in verse 13 is we hear the Word of Truth, we believe it and then we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Where would members of the group say they each were in that process (if they wish to)?

Were we
saved
before the
foundation
of the world
or when
we
believed?

What do you think it means for God to have chosen us before the foundation of the world?

If you put down
a deposit on a
house or car
what does it
mean?
Is it yours to
use yet?
What are you
saying to the
current owner?

How are we aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

What does it mean to you to have this deposit paid on your life?

What does
God's deposit
in you mean?