

EPHESIANS

GOD'S WISDOM ON DISPLAY

WEEK ONE – TITLE (e.g. BRAND NEW)

'Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God. To the saints who are in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.' EPH 1:1-2

WELCOME - involve everyone, introduce new people, mention absences

Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving. Use an 'open/general' question topic related that engages everyone

WORD – ask key question related to the topic

Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don't; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone

Questions

- 1) What struck you on Sunday?
- 2) Regarding Identity, Purpose and Belonging which do you wrestle with the most?
- 3) How would you describe being 'in Christ' means?
- 4) In the passage Paul writes about saints (plural) and God being our Father. Why is being in community a key to life as God intended it, and how does this find expression in the local church?
- 5) When in your life have you discovered things that have increased your sense of purposefulness or sense of purpose?

*Can anyone share and old-to-new testimony in terms of their identity, purpose or belonging?

WORSHIP

*Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let's read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let's listen to this song, let's sing now, let's have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!** **BREAK BREAD**

REGULARLY*

- > Encourage prayers of thanks to God for His faithfulness.
- > Introduce worship with scripture, exhortation and encouragement as to HOW to participate
- > If you do songs;

- provide lyrics so new people are not awkward/unknown songs are not unhelpful
- Try to avoid videos with adverts

MEMORY VERSE - get creative!

'To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.' (Ephesians 1:1-2)

EG: Have the verse as individual words cut out in an envelope. Get the group to put them in the right order.

PRAYER

Get into twos or threes and share one prayer request and then pray for each other. Could you also commit to pray for each other through the week?

- > Encourage spiritual gifts (e.g. prophecy)

ACTION STEPS

Turn to the action steps at the end of week one of the devotional and ask people to take time in the week to consider them.

Take some time to reflect with God. Are there new things He is leading you to explore? During the week find a trusted friend to talk these things through with.

DELEGATE

Who will do what next week?