

EPHESIANS

GOD'S WISDOM ON DISPLAY

WEEK TWO – BLESSED

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.' (Ephesians 1:3)

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

- *Who can share a time when they remember being so excited that they couldn't contain it?*

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) How do you sense your life has been blessed by God?
- 2) How does knowing that we were chosen in Christ and planned before the creation of the world make you feel?
- 3) Describe what it might be like to be in slavery – draw from what you've seen in films or read in books or heard in recent news. Contrast this with what means to be redeemed (bought back) in Christ.
- 4) What does it mean to be 'caught up' in the purposes of God?
- 5) What are some of the things people can be concerned about when looking to the future?

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

Possible Worship time: Write down on a slip of paper a sentence conveying how you have been blessed in your own life. Place the written prayers in the middle of the room. Everyone then takes a slip and reads it aloud, giving praise together to God for His goodness.

Have people stand in a huddle as a group and pray a scripture of blessing, such as:

'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26)

MEMORY VERSE – get creative!

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.' (Ephesians 1:3)

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.

Each day this week, read these verses and pray them into you. Maybe take one each day to send to someone and encourage them?

DELEGATE

Who will do what next week?