STUDY 1
Ephesians 1:1-14
Every Spiritual blessing

Q. Why do you think God called us to have a relationship with him? Discuss

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Read verse 1-14 and as you read circle the words you think are important. (Discuss your reasons afterwards).

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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3 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**.
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4 ***For he chose us in him*** before the creation of the world ***to be*** holy and blameless in his sight.
In love 5 ***he predestined us to be*** adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--
6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
7 ***In him we have redemption through his blood***, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.
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9 ***And he made known to us the mystery of his will*** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,
10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- ***to bring all things*** in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.
11 ***In him we were also chosen***, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
12 ***in order that we,*** who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.
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13 ***And you also were included in Christ*** when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.

Q. Verse 3 tells us that we have been blessed *with every spiritual blessing in Christ. What do you think this means?*

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Verses 4- 7 begin with a conjunction 'for' which tells us why we are blessed.

i) Fill in the remainder of each verse and discuss why each is such a blessing.

V4 For he chose us to be_____

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V5 He predestined us to be _____

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V6 In him we have redemption through his blood _____

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Verses 4-7 are key ideas which the apostle Paul will continue to explain to his readers throughout the letter. The content of the letter therefore sheds some light on the probable occasion or situation Paul is writing to address. He wants to stress to his readers the importance of understanding that the assurance of salvation lies fundamentally in what God has done for us and not in what we have done of our own accord.

These key ideas of election (being chosen), predestination and redemption are on the top of Paul's list in this letter, which all unlock how the people of God should understand their purpose in this calling and the certainty of our salvation due to this. It is the mystery of God kept hidden until the proper time now revealed to the world.

Read Verses 9 - 12 again.

Q. What is God's will for the universe? (v10)

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Q. What is our part to play in this? (v11)

In him we were also chosen…in order that we might be for…

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Q. In what ways do we live our lives *for the praise of his glory* or do you think this is will only happen when we are in heaven*?*

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Read the verses 13 and 14 again. What word would you use to summarise this section. Give your reasons based on how it is connected to the rest of the passage?

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What an amazing beginning to this letter! It begins with the key themes of election and assurance, two fundamental doctrines which drive the life of a believer. Both stem from the means of salvation, the redemptive work of Jesus when he died on the cross for us and the work of God to bring all things under the authority and headship of Jesus. A message of hope and certainty is being sent out because salvation is not found in the efforts of man but on the perfect and guaranteed work of God seen in power of the Holy Spirit. This is part of the mystery hidden but now revealed to the world.

Prayer- Spend some time giving thanks to God for the way he has chosen us and for the great assurance we can have through what Jesus has done for us.

Prayer points:

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