

Clean Slate | Ephesians 1:1-2 January 8th, 2023

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story for 5-8 minutes and rotate people each week. See the group leader resource page for ideas on sharing your story.

- 1) What has been one of the most meaningful letters you have received or sent?
- 2) What are you hoping to get out of attending the group this quarter?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Ephesians 1:1-2

- 1) Have any group members listened through the entire book each day as the sermon encouraged us to do? What did you gain from the experience?

Author and Context

- 2) What was Paul's position and relationship to the church in Ephesus? (See also Acts 19:8-12)
- 3) Who called him to be an apostle and to what positions of influence has God called you? How does it elevate your position when you think of it being God's will for you?
- 4) As a group, list all the details you can remember about Paul's life? What is implied about his present condition by **3:1, 3:13, 4:1, 6:19-20**.
- 5) When have you experienced any kind of loss or hardship for the sake of God's kingdom? How did it also result in a blessing to you or others?

Recipients and key words

- 6) What names and adjectives did Paul use to identify the folks he was writing to? Why is it hard for you to think of yourself as a saint? Why is this a correct name for them and for you? (see Ephesians 1:4)
- 7) Describe the tension between our position of "being" holy and the practice of "becoming" more holy. (See Philippians 2:12-14)
- 8) Paul uses the phrase "In Christ" to describe believers. How often do you see the phrase "in Him or "in Christ" in the first 14 verses? How would you explain the meaning of that description?
- 9) How does being "in Christ" point to being part of a relationally connected community? In what ways does your identity as part of the church body influence your weekly habits, decisions and prayers?
- 10) Some divide the book in two sections: Our position in Christ (1-3) **and** Our practice in Christ. (4-6) What makes knowing your identity in Christ so crucial to how you live your life?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.

- 1) Lord, "What part of my identity as a Christian would you want me to focus on today?"
- 2) Lord, "How can I ask my group to pray for me this week as I embrace my identity in Christ?"