

Finding and following Jesus means receiving a whole new identity in Christ. So who are we IN CHRIST? Ephesians 1 reminds us of 4 salvation blessings, of who we now are IN CHRIST . . .

2. In Christ we are _____.

- Children of _____ become children of _____. (Eph. 1:3)
- We have a _____ and a _____!
- Our adoption implies _____ and _____.

3. In Christ we are _____.

- Jesus is our _____.
- We are freed from our _____ to sin, with its _____ and _____.
- We are freed to live to the praise of God's _____ and _____.

4. In Christ we are _____ for an _____.

- As His _____ kids, God has promised us an _____.
- The Holy Spirit is God's _____, the sign that we are _____.
- The Holy Spirit is the _____ or _____ of our inheritance.

1. In Christ we are _____.

- If we have _____ Jesus, we are _____.
- One of the reasons we struggle with _____ is because we don't _____ our true condition apart from Christ. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- The fact of our _____ magnifies the truth that we are saved by sheer _____.
- While we can't fully understand it, our _____ is a reason for _____.



The Blessings of God's Salvation

Ephesians 1:3-14

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Growth Group Interaction Guide

Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we live out our "body life" together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody together our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

Connecting Together

Growth Group time is family time! Listen, love and laugh together as you share updates from your week and honestly answer the question, "How are you?"

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Here at Grace Central Coast we try not to ask, "How did you like the message?" but rather, "How did you come under God's Word in the message?" So how did you this week?
2. When was the last time you took an ice cold shower, or an ice bath or went "polar bearing" in a mountain stream or lake? What does that feel like? Why do we need "ice baths" to wake us up to our identity in Christ? What are some of the "ice baths" God uses to wake us up to spiritual realities?

3. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 again together as a group. Paul uses four pictures to teach four truths about our identity in Christ: chosen, adopted, redeemed, and sealed for inheritance. After reading together, have four different people choose and describe what one of those pictures looks like in their own mind's eye.
4. Which one of the four truth pictures is most meaningful to you at this point in your walk with Jesus?
5. Your Growth Group as a Family: The fact that in Christ we are adopted means we have a Father and a Family. Describe a bit about the family you grew up in and how that impacts your experience of the family of God, for good and/or for ill.
6. Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary: Not only do we need ice baths to remember who we are IN CHRIST, we also need ice baths to remember HOW OTHERS NEED CHRIST. Who, in your circle of influence needs Christ? Is there a tribe of people in your community that needs Christ, that God might be moving your Growth Group to strategically reach? (Seniors in retirement homes, athletes at the high school, musicians in the symphony, teachers at the elementary school, residents in a particular neighborhood, etc. You get the idea!)

Praying Together

- Pray for ice baths to really wake up to your identity in Christ and all that means for life.
- Pray for ice baths to really see the true condition of others apart from Christ and their need for Christ.
- Pray for one another's real needs.