

# EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

This summer, we're going to work our way through Ephesians. There's nothing like moving slowly through a book of the Bible. That's what we're going to do together this summer with the Book of Ephesians. We're also excited about the Ephesians booklet we've provided for everyone to use on this journey together. We encourage you to bring it to church each Sunday, take notes, and use it as you reflect on the sermon with your small group. The subtitle, and the title of today's study, are: "Who I Am and Why It Matters."

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:1-14

## Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?

## Read Ephesians 1:1-2.

2. Your identity speaks to *who* you are and *what* you're about. What do these opening verses reveal about Paul's identity? When people look at your life, what can they identify about you?

## Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

3. What mental picture do these verses create regarding your place before God?
4. What does it mean that before creation, God "loved you and chose you in Christ" for salvation? What power does this truth have for you on your worst day, never mind your best day?
5. What do these verses reveal about God's grace toward you? How is God's grace described in these verses? How are we tempted to view God's grace differently from what we see in these verses?
6. What does it mean to be *redeemed* and *adopted* into the family of God? What hope does this give us? How should our redemption and adoption shape our identity and purpose?
7. Why is the phrase "when you...*believed in Him*" pivotal to the context of verses 3-14?
8. What should our response be to the truth of these verses? Why should they lead us to live with joy each day, regardless of our circumstances? How can we keep our hearts anchored to these truths?
9. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?