

These Southland Group discussion guides are intended to guide you through the biblical text(s) from the weekend sermon. As a leader, your task **is not** to make it through every question here (choose 1-3 from each section), but to guide through the 5W's below. **Before group**, read the passage, and choose the questions or options you want to use in group.

Sermon Series: Ephesians: A People Formed by Grace

Sermon Date: February 15, 2026

Main Idea: In Christ, you have been saved from the penalty of sin, are being released from the power of sin, and will be set apart from the presence of sin. Praise be to God!

WELCOME The goal is to get everyone talking. Approx 10 min

- *Option 1:* Share highs and lows from the week.
- *Option 2:* Ask: "If you could hear one honest sentence from God about your life right now, what would you hope it says?"

WORSHIP The goal is to humble your hearts before God. Approx 10 min

- *Option 1:* Have a group member (or you) share the gospel with the group to remember the work of Jesus.
- *Option 2:* Play "[Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me](#)" by CityAlight on YouTube. Encourage people to listen or sing if comfortable.

WORD The goal is to discuss God's Word together and apply it to your lives. Approx 50 min

Open in a word of prayer, inviting God to speak through His word and transform your hearts.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you? What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?

Have two volunteers **read Ephesians 1:3-10, each in a different translation.**

- **HIGHLIGHT** What does the text say? (5-10 min)
 - What words or phrases are repeated or emphasized here?
 - Which phrases are particularly powerful or confusing?
 - Verses 7-10 list more of the "spiritual blessings" from verse 3. What blessings are shown here?
- **EXPLAIN** What does this text mean? (20 min)
 - What does God reveal about Himself here?
 - What does God reveal about people here? What are we to be/do?
 - What does Paul mean by "redemption through His blood" in verse 7? What would a word like redemption mean to people who are enslaved or indebted to Rome?
 - How does Paul describe God's grace in verse 8? Why is that important?
 - How does this passage challenge a small, individual view of salvation?
 - Summarize, what did God intend to communicate in this passage? Why is this passage in the Bible?

- **APPLY** How does this text apply today? (20 min)
 - How should knowing you are redeemed and forgiven in Christ shape your identity? How would your week look different if you live from this truth?
 - What gets in the way of living in this truth?
 - How can you – individually – remember and live in this reality? How could we – as a group – help you?
 - How might remembering and believing God has a bigger plan change how you face suffering or chaotic times in the world?
 - What does it look like to live as someone who trusts that history is moving toward Christ, not chaos?
 - What is one thing God wants you to do or believe in response to this section of Scripture?
- **RESPOND** Pray, thanking God for what He revealed from the passage (5 min)

WANTS The goal is to share prayer requests and pray for one another. (Approx 20 min)

- *Option 1:* Break off into groups of 3-4 (same gender) to share prayer requests and pray for the person on your left. Encourage one another throughout the week by text. (LEADER NOTE: If doing this option, do WITNESS [below] before dividing.)
- *Option 2:* Share prayer requests as a large group. Then (1) choose someone to close in prayer, (2) you open in prayer, (3) leave silence in-between for people to pray out loud as the Spirit leads

WITNESS The goal is to get people thinking about others outside of the group. Approx 5 min

- *Option 1:* Who is one person in your life who needs to hear and receive the Gospel? How can you make sure to share with him/her?
- *Option 2:* Who are you pulling alongside you to show them how to follow Jesus? If you're not yet, what keeps you from doing so?

LEADER REMINDERS

- Reach out to at least one group member to encourage them in their walk with Jesus.
- Identify at least one potential leader in your group and ask them to help you lead one part of the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- **CHURCH POTLUCK:** February 22 – bring a side dish to share after service
- **FAMILY EQUIP.** March 1, 4-5:30pm – Parents and kids (5th grade and under) learn from Elise Fraser, author of *Serving Made Simple*, how to serve those in need as a family. Kids are welcome and encouraged to attend with their parents.
- **STUDENT INVITE NIGHT,** March 1, 6-8pm. Have students register online and bring a friend!