

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 22, 2026

Main Idea: God secures our future by sealing believers with the Holy Spirit, who guarantees our inheritance in Christ.

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

- *Option 1:* Share highs and lows from the week.
- *Option 2:* Ask: "What's something important you've owned that came with a guarantee or warranty? How did that affect your confidence in using it?"

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

- *Option 1:* Have a group member (or you) share your testimony with the group – where you came from, how you recognized your need for Jesus, how Jesus saved you, and where you are now because of Him.
- *Option 2:* Play "[Holy Spirit](#)" by Bryan and Katie Torwalt 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 1:11-14, 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?
 - What are the roles of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit 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 it mean that believers are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit?
 - Why do you think God gives the Spirit as a guarantee, and doesn't just make a promise?
 - **Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, and John 16:7-15.** How do these expand your understanding of what the Holy Spirit does?
 - 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 can you know if you are sealed with the Holy Spirit?
 - How does knowing you are sealed by the Spirit affect the way you approach God? How about when you feel weak or discouraged?
 - How can remembering the Spirit's presence help you face uncertainty?
 - Are there patterns or habits in your life that dull your awareness of the Spirit's work? What might repentance look like?
 - If the Spirit is a guarantee of what's to come, how should that shape your priorities now (with time, money, your influence, parenting)?
 - 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:* What is one need within the community (i.e. domestic abuse, poverty, foster care, etc.)? What is one way this group can bless or serve those in need this month?
- *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

- **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!
- **MEMBERSHIP CLASS,** March 22, 2-3:30pm at the clubhouse in the Retreat at Rayfield. Register online.