

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: March 1, 2026

Main Idea: Paul prays that believers would truly know the hope they have in God, their deep value to Him, and His immeasurable power in their lives through Christ.

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

- *Option 1:* Share highs and lows from the week.
- *Option 2:* Ask: "When was a time you suddenly understood something that you had heard before – but it finally clicked? What made the difference?"

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 "Spirit of the Living God" by Meredith Andrews 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 open 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 1:15-19, 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 does Paul specifically request here?
 - What 3 things does Paul want believers to know more?
- **EXPLAIN** What does this text mean? (20 min)
 - What does God reveal about Himself here?
 - What does "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation" reveal about how spiritual understanding comes?
 - What does Paul mean by "the eyes of your heart" and why is that important?
 - What does it mean that believers *are* God's glorious inheritance and not just the *recipients* of one?
 - 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 might your outlook change if you regularly prayed for spiritual insight rather than immediate solutions?
 - In what ways do Christians live as if God's power is distant or limited?
 - Where do you see a gap between what you *know* about God and how to *live* in light of that truth?
 - How does understanding believers as being a part of God's inheritance affect your sense of worth and identity?
 - In what areas of your life do you tend to rely more on your own strength rather than on God?
 - 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 way this group can bless or serve those in need this month? Who in this group will make sure we follow through?
- *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

- **FORGE MEN'S BREAKFAST**, March 18, 7-8:30am. Come meet other guys in the church and share a meal.
- **WOMEN'S GATHERING**, March 18, 6:30-8:30pm. Come meet other women and serve Marvin Pregnancy Center.
- **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**, March 22, 2-3:30pm at the clubhouse in the Retreat at Rayfield. Register online.