



Discussion Guide | Week 2: Extraordinary Salvation | February 13, 2022

INTRO VIDEO Start off your group by clicking the link below & logging in to watch session #1 of the series “The Book of Ephesians” by J.D. Greear on RightNow Media.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/195647?session=202594>

Reminder: Some perspectives J.D. shares differ from Pastor Brad's. We see this as an opportunity to practice healthy dialogue about differing views & interpretations. If any tough questions come up during your discussion, feel free to email Pastor Mike.

OVERVIEW Ephesians 1 tells us that when God looks at people, regardless of their ethnicity, the color of their skin, he whispers in their ears, “I wish you were my little girl. I wish you were my little boy.” It doesn’t matter whether they are black, white, yellow, or brown. God is offering a salvation that is way bigger & more important than ethnicity.

KEY VERSES Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV84); Acts 13:26 (NIV84)

REMEMBER What’s something that’s a regular part of your life, but you really don’t understand how it works? Does this bother you? And does that keep you from using it? Share.

REFLECT Pastor Brad talked about how his perspective on Ephesians 1 is different from J.D. Greear’s. Brad views Paul’s discussion of God’s election in Ephesians 1 as a corporate election given to an entire group of people. But J.D. views this passage as describing individual election. Have you been exposed to each of these views in the past? Which view most resonates with you, and why? Explain.

RESPOND Brad unpacked vv. 13-14 to explain the Holy Spirit’s role to seal (i.e. – preserve) our salvation & also to serve as a deposit (i.e. – down payment) guaranteeing what is to come. We will eventually share in a full inheritance in God’s kingdom, but meanwhile the Holy Spirit is living in our hearts, guaranteeing that future blessing. How does knowing this change how you view the challenges you’re currently facing in your life as you follow after Jesus? Explain.

REAL LIFE J.D. Greear gave 3 takeaways for us from today’s passage:

- God’s ASSURANCE invites us to put our fears aside since Jesus takes care of his own & will finish what he starts.
- God’s HOPE says that even when things are going badly for us, we can know that God is shaping us for greater things & bravely face whatever trials come our way.
- God’s BOLDNESS empowers us to share the good news of Jesus with others, not tricking or manipulating them but simply telling the story & trusting God to draw people to himself.

Which of these 3 takeaways do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to increase in your life? This week, what would it look like for you to share boldly with others about the assurance & hope that you have in Jesus? Share.

PRAYER TIME For your prayer time, have each person share one way the group can be praying for them this week. It could be related to what you discussed in your group time, your job, your family, or something else. Spend a few minutes praying over everyone’s requests.