



# Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily  
the Gospel of the Church


## "The Blessing – Episode 2"

Ephesians 1:7-14

Rev. Adam Jones, August 30 & 31, 2014

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 1:7-14. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Our lives are often fractured and dysfunctional, and as a result we experience vertigo in our souls. What is something that has recently left you feeling confused, discouraged, or full of doubt?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### THE BLESSING OF REDEMPTION

- 3 Why did our redemption cost nothing less than the blood of the Son of God?
- 4 Our guilt and shame can own us, like Lady Macbeth, but the blood of Christ cleanses us from our burdens. What are you carrying that his blood cleanses you from?

- 5 The shed blood of Jesus should humble us in our arrogance and inflated views of ourselves. How might you complete the following sentence: “Because Jesus had to shed his blood for me, I shouldn’t be so shocked that \_\_\_\_\_.”

#### THE BLESSING OF INHERITANCE

- 6 What is the role of the Holy Spirit with regard to your eternal inheritance?
- 7 Ephesians 1:11 can also be translated, “We were claimed by God as his portion.” Do you believe that you are God’s treasured portion? Like the USC football player, what stories do we make up about ourselves to feel significant? Where is ultimate significance found?

#### THE BLESSING OF THE REVEALED MYSTERY

- 8 Why does Paul use the language of “mystery” when talking about the gospel?
- 9 The riots in St. Louis are just a picture of a greater worldwide problem caused by sin and the fall. In our hearts we wonder, “when will all the riots be over?” What present day “riots” will be ended in the new heavens and new earth?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?