

Ephesians Series – Autumn 2020 Including Life **Group Leaders Brief**

Taken from the book **Ephesians: How Jesus creates a New People in a New World** by Brad Wilson

‘How Jesus creates a new people in a new world’

A major series preaching through this book, with each message formed of three parts:

- Head – Renewal of our minds by the knowledge of God
- Heart – Restoration of our souls by the application of this truth
- Hands – Transformation of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit

There are eight parts (weeks) each has a reading(s) a brief synopsis and some suggested questions.

Please note that the first three parts all have two sections, the remaining parts one section each.

Suggested questions for life groups have been **highlighted**.

Part 1 - A church adopted (1:1-14)

Head

We are told that as a Christians we are ADOPTED as Sons & Daughters (v5)
REDEMPTION by grace (v7) (Romans3: 23-24) Freely given in Christ (v6)

Adoption:

- a proactive choice by God, His pleasure and will.
- rights of a child
- fully included in God’s family
- inheritance

C. S. Lewis “the Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God”

Adoption ref; Romans 8:15, 23. Galatians 4:5

REDEMPTION by grace (v7) (Romans 3: 23-24) Freely given in Christ (v6)

Heart

To place our hope in Christ (v12)

To bring praise to God (v12, v14)

To realise the gift of the Holy Spirit marks us out as believers (v13) (John14: 16-18)

How does it affect our feelings/affections to know we are adopted children of God, by His choice?

Hands

To bring praise and glory to God by seeking God’s will for our lives both individually and together as His body.

When we know we are chosen by God, adopted into His family, by His choice and total cost to Him we need to live from that place of total security.

Do you ever feel abandoned? Do you feel you need to earn acceptance?

Thinking about your story and this passage, how has God glorified Himself by making you an heir?

How can you make space in your life to listen to what the Holy Spirit tells you about Jesus, your identity, and God's glory?

Part 1 continued: And Belonging to Jesus (1:15-23)

Head

As Christians we belong to Jesus, the church, His body. In order to bring more people into that family, for the glory of God.

Paul prays for wisdom and revelation so that the Ephesians may know:

- God better (v17)
- the hope to which they have been called
- His incomparably great power
- His authoritative position over all.

Who are we in the light of who God is?

Heart

Christ to have the preeminent place (first call) on our lives (v22-23)

To give him authority over all aspects of our lives

Where in our life do you feel out of control? Why?

Thinking about your story and this passage, how have you seen the power of the resurrection in your life?

Hands

We must walk daily in the knowledge/wisdom/revelation (v17)/power that the Holy Spirit gives us in our current situation.

What difference would it make in our community if we did just that? If we fully lived in the reality of adopted sons and daughters of the King?

How do we live this out as individuals and church?