



EPHESIANS SERIES

BUILT ON BIBLICAL BEDROCK

THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

STUDY GUIDE • EPHESIANS 1:13-14



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The Ghost Who Removes All Fear

EPHESIANS 1:13-14

WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Have you made a large purchase before which required a downpayment? If so, share your experience with the rest of the group. What purpose does the downpayment serve? What happened after you gave the downpayment?

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- How Deep the Father's Love For Us
- Be Still My Soul

WORD: Understanding the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will be secure in their identity as God's children.
2. Members will be assured of God's protection over them.
3. Members will glorify God by acting like His children.

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lessons we saw how God blessed believers with every spiritual blessing. All these blessings He gave out of His graciousness, not because the recipients earned it or deserved it. God blessed believers with salvation, choosing to save them before the beginning of time. God blessed them with an unimaginable inheritance, which He prepared from the beginning of time. In this lesson, we will look at how God blesses believers by sealing them with the Holy Spirit. What are the implications of believers being sealed with the Holy Spirit? Let's take a look.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. When does God seal a person with the Holy Spirit? (v. 13a)
2. Why does Paul describe the Holy Spirit as "promised?" (v. 13b) (cf. John 14:15-17)
3. How else does Paul describe the Holy Spirit? (v. 14a)
4. What is the purpose of God sealing believers with the Holy Spirit (along with every spiritual blessing)? (v. 14b)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. God seals a person with the Holy Spirit when they believe in Christ after hearing the gospel. Why do you think God made this the condition for receiving His blessings?
2. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples before He left them and ascended into heaven. What assurance do Christ's disciples have because of the Holy Spirit living in them? (cf. John 14:15-17)
3. According to what Paul wrote in Romans 8:9,16, what assurance does the Holy Spirit give to those who have Him? What does it mean to be a child of God?
4. The Holy Spirit is "the guarantee of our inheritance." In a sense, the Holy Spirit is a "downpayment" of our inheritance. How would you describe a downpayment? What is the implication of God giving the Holy Spirit as a downpayment?
5. How can believers glorify God with the Holy Spirit living in them?

WALK: Applying the Word

APPLICATIONS

- CHILDREN -

1. Since we belong to Jesus, how should we behave each day? What actions show that we are God's children? Ex: Jesus was prayerful: do we also pray, and how often?. Share 1-2 examples that show we are like Jesus? You may draw a picture that shows we are like Jesus.

- YOUTH -

1. Do you sometimes find yourself doubting if you're really part of God's family? How can this truth about the guarantee of the Holy Spirit encourage you today?
2. Now that believers belong to Jesus, what are some of the things you need to let go of in your life that don't reflect Christ's ownership? What are some of the things you need to start embracing?

- ADULTS -

1. How can your identity as a child of God affect how you see yourself? How does it affect your interactions with other people, especially when people ridicule or make fun of you?
2. The Holy Spirit assures us of God's ownership and protection over our lives. We have been freed from slavery to sin and death. How can you make your life a reflection of this truth?

WALK: Applying the Word

- COMMUNAL -

1. One use of seals is to show its authenticity. How can you show your authenticity as a follower of Jesus to your community?
2. Another use of a seal is to show the finality of a transaction like those in a contract. Jesus purchased us with his blood. How can we keep accountable and not take this for granted?

- GLOBAL -

1. One use of seals is to show its authenticity. How can you show your authenticity as a follower of Jesus globally?
2. Another use of seals is to secure something like sealing a letter so no one else can read it. We are sealed and protected by the Holy Spirit. How can we share this same security with others?



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