

Belmont Chapel Home Group Notes Autumn Term 2019

A life of spiritual blessing: Ephesians 1:1-14

Notes for w/b 15th September 2019

The **Study Leaders' Own Bible Study** for this session is on **Sunday 8th September at 6.45pm**. You are warmly encouraged to attend. SLOBS is a great chance to prepare together, to discuss possible approaches to the questions, anticipate any challenging aspects of the passage, and to pray for the session with others who'll also be leading their groups. It will also be very helpful to listen to Paul Cooke's sermon on **Sunday morning 8th September**.

These notes are a supplement to the study guide 'Building a Community in Christ' provided to each home group.

Way In

How does being a part of a Christian community help you to see God at work? Can you share a specific example?

Pause and give thanks for those examples

Read Ephesians 1:1-14, twice. On the second reading, write down words, phrases or questions which stand out for you. Share these together and see if you can work out a response based on the passage, and other bible knowledge available in the group.

I. What has happened?

a. Ch 1v 4 – 8 is a long list of spiritual blessings. What are they and what do these words mean? In what way are they a blessing?

b. How do these blessings relate to the past (things done), present (things happening) and future (things to come)?

c. What impact do these blessings have on your words, thoughts and actions?

Pause and praise God for these many blessings

II. Who are you now?

a. What words and phrases does Paul use to describe those who are believers?

b. How does this contrast with the spiritual state of those who have not received these blessings?

c. What does it mean to live 'to the praise of his [God's] glory?

d. How does this purpose, and our new status, affect the way we speak, act, think? In what ways can this identity and purpose make a difference in our daily lives?

This Week

How can our lives as a Christian community (scattered and gathered) be lived for the praise of God's glory? Write down an area you'd like to see lived more for the praise of God's glory. Pass this paper to the person on your right. Read the note you've been handed and write down one of the blessings which could make a difference for this person. Commit to pray for them in this situation this week (see 1 v 16 & 17).