

Discussion Guide

“It’s Time To Grow Up”, wk1: Gift after Gift after Gift

January 8, 2023



Big Idea

We have treasures in Christ.



Icebreaker

Is there anything that you ever unexpectedly found while cleaning the house, cleaning out, or even while at garage sales or antiquing, etc. that was personally special to you? What was it & why was it special to you?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 1:4a (“*For he chose us...blameless in his sight.*”). Praise God, we are not stuck as we currently are as Christians; we can grow & mature in holiness. As you think about growing in holiness, what is one way in which you have changed (for your good, others good, & God’s glory) from who you used to be? Also, what is one thing you need God’s help with in changing to become more holy?
2. Read Ephesians 1:4b-6 (“*In love...One he loves.*”). We often focus on the benefits to us, that our adoption through Christ brings. This verse communicates to us that our adoption is in accordance to “*his (God’s) pleasure and will*”. How do you think our acceptance of adoption brings God pleasure and what does this tell you about the character of God?
3. Read Ephesians 1:7-8a (“*In him [Jesus] we have...lavished on us.*”). What is the meaning, or definition, of redemption? What are some worldly examples of what redemption looks like? When we observe such worldly examples, how does it impact us from a justice standpoint and even an emotional standpoint? What is one “slavery” you personally have been led out of by the power of God and His strength in your life (think of something you have been able to overcome even when you felt that you did not have enough strength to and that He (God) helped you with)? Describe, how that all took place (what did the process or journey look like)? Is there something in your life today that you feel enslaved to that you need His help in overcoming? What is it?
4. Read Ephesians 1:8b-10 (“*With all wisdom...on earth under Christ.*”). Based on this passage, what is the aim of Christ’s leadership? Who are you in disunity with that you need to take proactive steps regarding in an effort of obedience to try and realize some healing? What are your first and second necessary steps to work toward that?
5. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. Based on this passage, what does the Holy Spirit guarantee for the believer? What is an appropriate response to this guarantee? Is it a one-time response, or is it to be something different? Explain. What may your personal response to this guarantee include tomorrow (a.k.a. how will you be different tomorrow than you are today)?



Concluding Question

As you think upon the five key words (gifts we have in Christ) from this sermon (Holiness, Adoption, Redemption, Leadership, the Holy Spirit) which is the most significant to you today & why?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray as the church begins this series that it will be a meaningful season for us all.