



## The Big Idea

Chapter 1 of Ephesians reveals the amazing story of how Jesus, all the way back to Genesis, has been working to bring Jew and Gentile together into one people, the Church. We explored how this mystery of the Church was part of God's plan all along, and how through Christ, each Christian has been blessed with every spiritual blessing. We also discovered the incredible depths of God's love for his Church and how it impacts our lives today.

## Things to Remember

*"The city of Ephesus was a hub of pagan worship, but the church that Paul founded there was a light in the darkness, a witness to the power of the gospel to transform lives and communities."*

*"In Christ, we have overcome the world. He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens."*

## Next Steps

Spend time this week reflecting on your personal relationship with Christ. Consider the ways in which you may have strayed from your first love and identify areas of your life where you can return to that initial passion and dedication. Practice daily reading of Scripture, focusing particularly on the book of Ephesians. As you read, ponder the eight attributes of being 'in Christ' outlined in this discussion and note how they personally resonate with you.

## Key Verses

Revelation 2:1-5, Ephesians 1:1-23

## Discussion Questions

- 1. Discuss** In the context of the Ephesian church's situation and the modern church, how do you see the concept of returning to orthodoxy and the love for Christ being relevant today? How can we individually and collectively heed this call?
- 2. Discuss** Reflecting on the idea of being chosen, family, forgiven, having hope, sealed by the Holy Spirit, able to access wisdom, revelation, and God's power, and having overcome the world, how do these attributes of being 'in Christ' affect your personal faith journey and your interaction with the church?
- 3. Discuss** Discuss the implications of 'faith being personal but not private'. How does this challenge the modern views of individualism and postmodernism within the context of the church?
- 4. Discuss** With the Ephesians, Paul emphasizes the unity of the church and equality of believers, dismissing distinctions of race, wealth, and status. How can the church today effectively address the 'lie of diversity' and truly reflect the unity that Paul advocated for?

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the unity and transformation we have in Christ. We pray that You guide us back to our first love for You, fueling us to live out our faith fervently. Strengthen us to uphold the unity of the Church in the midst of diversity and to be Your hands and feet in the world. Grant us wisdom, revelation, and hope as we seek to embody the truths we've learned from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

