

## **Expose. Embrace. Empower.** **Small Group Guide**

### **Warm-up Questions:**

1. If you had to describe your life as a movie title, what would it be and why?
2. What's a childhood habit you had to unlearn as you grew up? (e.g., believing in monsters under the bed, avoiding vegetables, etc.)

### **Read the following passages:** Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:3-14 reveals that salvation is more than just getting to heaven. It is the reality of being chosen, fully known, redeemed, embraced, and empowered *right now*. Through Christ, we are not just forgiven; we are adopted as sons and daughters, given an inheritance, and sealed with the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not simply an escape from sin's consequences but an invitation to live in the fullness of God's purpose for us today.

Yet stepping into this reality can be uncomfortable. God, in His kindness, exposes the things we trust in apart from Him, embraces us in His grace, and empowers us to walk in our true identity. This journey moves us from illusion to identity, from striving to sonship, from waiting to walking. Salvation is both a gift and a calling; one we are meant to live out daily.

### **Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

#### **Expose: Getting Real with God**

1. **Read Hebrews 4:13.** What is something God has been exposing in your life lately? How have you responded—by avoiding it, excusing it, or leaning into His grace?
2. Read **Proverbs 14:12.** What's one "false security" (success, relationships, morality, etc.) you've leaned on instead of fully trusting God? How is God calling you to surrender that?
3. What fears or excuses have kept you from fully stepping into what God is showing you? How can this group support you in walking through that?

#### **Embrace: Receiving What's Already Yours**

4. Many of us struggle with being loved and claimed by God. What about His grace is hardest for you to fully embrace? (Forgiveness? Adoption? Purpose?)

5. Read **Ephesians 1:5-6** and **John 21:15-17**. Peter had to accept Jesus' love after his failure. Where in your life do you need to let God's love redefine you instead of your past or performance?
6. Has your faith become more about familiarity than fire? When was the last time grace truly overwhelmed you? If it's been a while, what needs to shift for you to encounter God in a fresh way?
7. Have you been living like a spiritual outsider when God has called you His own? What is one step you can take this week to start living like someone who is fully embraced by God?

### **EMPOWER: Living Marked by God**

8. Paul says in **Ephesians 1:13-14** that we are *sealed* by the Holy Spirit. How does that truth challenge the way you currently live?
9. Read **Ephesians 2:10** and **2 Peter 1:3**. God has already given you everything you need to walk in His purpose. What's one area where you need to stop waiting and start walking?
10. What are you actively doing with what God has given you? How would your life look different if you really lived like you were saved for a purpose beyond yourself?
11. Where have you been hiding or playing it safe with your faith? What would stepping into boldness and obedience actually look like for you this week?

### **Optional Closing Challenge**

#### **Turn. Trust. Take a Step.**

Take 30 seconds before your day starts this week to remind yourself:

*"I am chosen. I am redeemed. I am marked. Today, I walk as someone who belongs to God."*

Then, take **one practical step** of faith: Whether it's having a conversation, stepping into a new opportunity, or choosing obedience in a difficult area.

Let's live like we belong to Him. Let's move like we belong to Him. Let's walk in it.

#### **Pray Together.**