

# Everything *is* DIFFERENT

WK 1 January 7, 2024

## Identity

### *Introduction*

Everything is different when you decide to follow Jesus. In Christ, you have a new identity that transforms your life. Together, we're walking through the book of Ephesians unpacking what this means and its impact on our lives today. In week one, Pastor Jesse helped us dig into the meaning and implications of God's love for us and its impact on our lives.

### *Discussion*

1. Welcome to the new year! Take a moment to reflect and share how the holidays and God were good to you this year. If it was a more difficult season for you, it's good to share that with your group, too – you're there to truly know and support each other.
2. **Revisit and read Ephesians 1:13-14.** Share your story of when you heard the Gospel and everything changed. What happened? Who was with you? Where were you? Do you notice any similar trends in one another's stories?
3. **Revisit and read Ephesians 1:3-8.** By confessing and believing Jesus, you have "full legal rights" as a son or daughter of God – including the Holy Spirit now and heaven later – no matter your past, current, or future sin. It can be too good to believe and too easy to forget. How real and present is this truth for you in your life right now? Why?
4. When you stop to remember the grace and enormity of God's love for you, how does it impact your perspective and day-to-day living? How could you keep this truth in front of you each day? Each hour? Minute-by-minute?
5. **Revisit and read Ephesians 1:9-10.** God doesn't just want you to be different. He wants everything to be different. Are you living in such a way that's informed by this big vision from God, or are you more "you" focused right now? What opportunities already exist in your life for you to worship, give, serve, and love as someone who believes God wants to save everyone and everything?

### *Application*

- **Keep reading.** Join us in reading through Ephesians over the course of this series! A daily devotional through this book of the Bible is available on [The Bible App](#).
- **Keep remembering.** It is all too easy to forget how big and great God's love actually is for you. Take time each day (or each hour if you're already there) to intentionally stop, reflect on the truths in Ephesians 1, and thank God for his love and good gifts.
- **Keep loving.** God's love is for you **and** everyone else. Live in such a way that communicates and demonstrates this unconditional love so those around you can catch a glimpse of God's love – and maybe even wonder about it for themselves.