

## Ephesians 1:1-10 Church Vision: Bringing Glory to God

**CONSIDER:** Can you remember any newspaper headings of people who brought disrepute to their team/organisation/country? Why do you remember these and not the good done? Why does failure capture our attention?

1. **v3** tells us that in every true church there are amazing things happening! In twos or threes read through **v1-6** and make a list of the amazing things God has already done, then read through again and make a list of what God is doing. Share these together and identify which ones amaze you most of all!
2. In **v1** the term 'saints' is used ... lit. 'set apart ones'. **v4** tells us what we are set apart for. What is the purpose of each of God's people? What does that look like in practice, day by day? How does God do this? (cf **Rom 12:1-2, Gal 5:16,19-26**) What is my part? (cf **Rom 12:3**) How does the church help? (cf **Rom 12:4-10**) What should this look like in this home group? Are we doing that??
3. This could create a huge personal feeling of burden. But God again emphasises that, positionally, Jesus' work is complete! We don't need to feel condemned! Look in **v7-8** ... what is meant by 'Redemption' and 'Forgiveness'? How do these two words used together help us with this certainty?
4. These two words are only part of the certainty. There is the language of abundance used in **v7-8** - identify the words used. How should this make us feel?
5. There is a great encouragement here too – what, again, is the purpose of His lavish grace (**v4a**)? How does this link to **Eph 5:25-27**? When God's Spirit next prompts us to our sin / failure, how should we respond in the light of this?
6. God is looking forward in all this, isn't He? Not at what we are, in mid-preparation, but to all He is transforming us to be! **v9-10** look complex, but aren't when we see they are talking about this purpose (**v10**). So, working backwards ... **v10** What is God looking towards? **v9c** What was God's purpose in sending Jesus? **V9b** What is His pleasure? **v9a** Why is this a 'mystery'? (cf **2 Cor 4:4, Jn 12:40**).
7. It can even be a mystery to us too ... we 'forget' that God is at work and is seeking to change us to be for His glory, and so we struggle against His work! In the light of all this, how should we live? What should we keep in mind? How should we respond to the prompting of His Spirit?

### CONTINUE TO APPLY & RESPOND:

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

**Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.**

## Ephesians 1:1-10 Church Vision: Bringing Glory to God

**CONSIDER:** Can you remember any newspaper headings of people who brought disrepute to their team/organisation/country? Why do you remember these and not the good done? Why does failure capture our attention?

1. **v3** tells us that in every true church there are amazing things happening! In twos or threes read through **v1-6** and make a list of the amazing things God has already done, then read through again and make a list of what God is doing. Share these together and identify which ones amaze you most of all!
2. In **v1** the term 'saints' is used ... lit. 'set apart ones'. **v4** tells us what we are set apart for. What is the purpose of each of God's people? What does that look like in practice, day by day? How does God do this? (cf **Rom 12:1-2, Gal 5:16,19-26**) What is my part? (cf **Rom 12:3**) How does the church help? (cf **Rom 12:4-10**) What should this look like in this home group? Are we doing that??
3. This could create a huge personal feeling of burden. But God again emphasises that, positionally, Jesus' work is complete! We don't need to feel condemned! Look in **v7-8** ... what is meant by 'Redemption' and 'Forgiveness'? How do these two words used together help us with this certainty?
4. These two words are only part of the certainty. There is the language of abundance used in **v7-8** - identify the words used. How should this make us feel?
5. There is a great encouragement here too – what, again, is the purpose of His lavish grace (**v4a**)? How does this link to **Eph 5:25-27**? When God's Spirit next prompts us to our sin / failure, how should we respond in the light of this?
6. God is looking forward in all this, isn't He? Not at what we are, in mid-preparation, but to all He is transforming us to be! **v9-10** look complex, but aren't when we see they are talking about this purpose (**v10**). So, working backwards ... **v10** What is God looking towards? **v9c** What was God's purpose in sending Jesus? **V9b** What is His pleasure? **v9a** Why is this a 'mystery'? (cf **2 Cor 4:4, Jn 12:40**).
7. It can even be a mystery to us too ... we 'forget' that God is at work and is seeking to change us to be for His glory, and so we struggle against His work! In the light of all this, how should we live? What should we keep in mind? How should we respond to the prompting of His Spirit?

### CONTINUE TO APPLY & RESPOND:

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

**Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.**