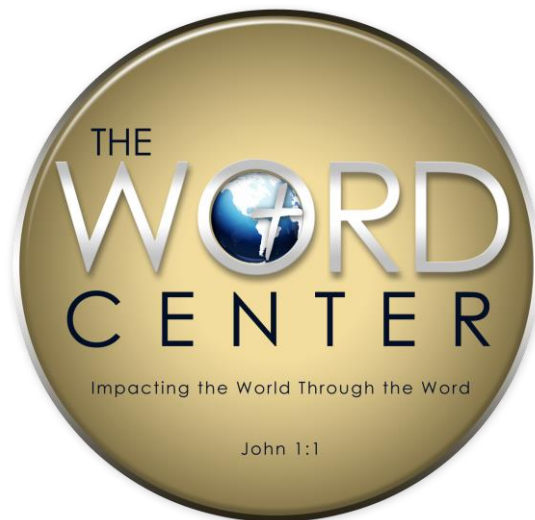


Bible Study Packet Week 1



**Pastor Marlon McDuffie
Lead Pastor**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise

1. Read 1:3-14, preferably at least once silently and once aloud. If you did not know that the passage was part of a letter, but had just heard it read or sung in church, what would you think it was? What effect in the hearts of his hearers do you think Paul wanted to produce?
2. What key phrase does Paul repeat in various ways in this passage?
3. What does verse 3 say the Father has done for us?
4. List all the blessings Paul named in the rest of the passage. (Personalize them by writing "me" instead of us.")

verse 4

verse 5

verse 7

verse 8

verse 9

verses 11-12

verses 13-14

5. Paraphrasing - putting Scripture into your own words - helps to assure that you understand it. Put verse 4 into your own words.

6. According to verses 7-8, how are we able to become holy and blameless? Use your own words. (*Optional:* Use 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 as a cross-reference)

7. Paul repeated three times God's purpose in bestowing these blessings (see verses 5-6, 12,14). What result does Paul teach that God expects in our lives?

8. According to verse 10, what is God's ultimate goal? Explain in your own words. (*Optional*: See also Philippians 2:9-11 and Colossians 1:19-20.)

9. In verse 13, Paul says that God has guaranteed His blessings are secure by identifying you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit. What do you think it means to be "identified" as his own by the Holy Spirit? (*Optional*: John 14:16; Romans 8:15-17; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Esther 8:8.)

10. Is there a specific response you would like to make to 1:3-14?

11. Why do you think Paul put praise first in his letter?

12. a. Do you ever find it difficult to praise God in prayer, especially for more than a minute at a time? If so, why?

b. How could you overcome these obstacles?