

God's Purposes and Your Life

1. Think back on our study of Acts last year. Several years before Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians, he traveled to Ephesus in Acts chapter 19 and spent about three years there. What were some of the main events that took place while he was there?
2. In Ephesians 1:3, Paul uses the pronouns "our" and "us". Who is the "us" in this verse?
3. How is the word "blessed" used in our culture today? What are the "blessings" most people think of when they say this?
4. This group called "us" is blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. What does the word "blessed" mean in the Bible? What are the blessings that Paul is referring to in verse 3?
5. Verse 3 says that the group "us" is blessed "in Christ." What does it mean that we are blessed with these blessings "in Christ"?
6. Verses 4 and 5 tell us about two connected events that happened "before the foundation of the world." What are the two events? Why did God make this plan "before the foundation of the world"?
7. What do the phrases "before Him" (v. 4) and "adoption as sons" (v. 5) mean in the Bible? Can you think of other passages that use those phrases?
8. What are the results of this plan that God made, both for God and for us (v. 6)?
9. What are some appropriate responses to God's grace in your life?