

God's Spiritual Blessings Overflow

1. Review: Paul's sentence about God's blessings begins in v. 3 and continues all the way through v. 14. What words or phrases in v. 3 describe these blessings? Discuss the significance of each of these words or phrases, and what added information it gives us.
2. The phrase "in Christ" (or something similar) occurs 10 times in verses 3-14. What does it mean that we have these blessings "in Christ"? What is the difference between someone being in a Christian church service and being "in Christ"?
3. What is the first blessing listed in v. 7? Describe what this blessing means in your own life. What other important spiritual result comes along with this blessing (7)?
4. The topic of God's riches is mentioned five times in Ephesians (1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16). Ask different group members to read these verses aloud. What do you learn here about how rich our God is? What does 1:8 tell us about one thing God does with His riches?
5. In the New Testament, the word "mystery" describes something only known by direct revelation from God. What does "the mystery of His will" reveal about what happens at "the fullness of the times," when Christ returns (9-10)? What do you think "the summing up of all things in Christ" refers to? (10, NASB; compare other translations).
6. There are two possible interpretations for the opening phrase of v. 11 – "we have obtained an inheritance," or "we were made an inheritance." What is the difference between us "obtaining" an inheritance from God and us "being made" an inheritance for God? Which do you think better fits the context here of "blessings" (review v. 3)?
7. What two groups of people are "to the praise of His glory" (12-14)? In other words, who is the "we" in v. 12 and the "you" in v. 13, that get combined into "our" in v. 14?
8. What steps from v. 13 tell us how someone can become a Christian? Ask 2-3 people to describe how these steps took place at some point in their lives (a brief testimony).
9. What two roles does the Holy Spirit have here in our salvation (verses 13-14)? Discuss what each of these roles means for our eternal future.
10. Pick one of the blessings described in Paul's long sentence of verses 3-14, and tell the group how you have been "blessed" by that particular spiritual blessing from God.