



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Post Grad Group Agenda

Lesson 2 – Week of October 5th

1. Mingling and catching up. (10 minutes) __:00 - __:10
2. Begin with a short prayer for your time together. (5 minutes) __:10 - __:15
3. Move to a time of accountability. (20 minutes) __:15 - __:35
 - i. **Accountability Questions on your Prayer Time**
 - ☐ How consistent have you been in personal prayer this week?
 - ☐ Have you prayed for your brothers and sisters in Christ by name?
 - ☐ What have you specifically confessed to the Lord in prayer?
 - ☐ Have your prayers been more focused on your desires or God's will?
 - ☐ Have you prayed for your pastors, elders, and leaders?
 - ii. **Homework**
 - ☐ Which devotional did you decide to do? And did you accomplish at least five devotionals this week?
 - ☐ Did you read *Union with Christ*, Introduction?
 - ☐ Did you complete the Bible Study on Ephesians 1:1-14
4. Lesson Time. (40-55 minutes) __:35 - __:15 __:35 - __:30

From the Bible study on Ephesians 1:1-14

- i. Question 3: What does Paul's repeated 'in Christ' language suggest about how believers receive these blessings?
Suggested answer: Paul presents every saving blessing as received in union with Christ. Believers do not receive an independent package of benefits; they receive Christ and, in him, the blessings of salvation.
- ii. Question 4: Why might Paul reach for the specific image of "adoption" (v. 5) rather than simply "forgiveness" or "membership" to describe what union with Christ accomplishes?
Suggested answer: Adoption describes more than pardon. It includes a new family, status, inheritance, and relationship to the Father through the Son.
- iii. Question 6: If everything Paul lists here is true of you only because you are "in Christ" and not because of anything you've done, what is one area of your life right now where you're tempted to seek identity, security, or approval from something other than this union?

- iv. Question 1: Billings frames his method as “a theology of retrieval.” In his own words, what are the three virtues of reading scripture alongside Christians of the past that he identifies in “Seeing with New Eyes”?

Suggested answer: The three virtues are: recognizing the limits and blind spots of our own cultural location; allowing past Christians to open exegetical and theological possibilities beyond present assumptions; and testing those retrieved possibilities critically for faithfulness to Scripture.

- v. Question 2: Billings uses his own experience in a Ugandan village — discovering kinship structures he was blind to — as an analogy for theological retrieval. What was he blind to, and what did it help him see in scripture?

Suggested answer: Billings initially failed to see how extended kinship networks structured identity, obligation, and belonging in the Ugandan village. The experience exposed his Western individualism and helped him notice Scripture’s corporate and familial patterns more clearly.

- vi. Billings warns that MTD-style faith treats God as someone to consult only “when needed to resolve a problem.” Where in your own prayer life this past month have you related to God more like an on-call consultant than a Father you commune with continually?
- vii. As you begin this year in Ephesians and Billings together, what’s one assumption about God, salvation, or the Christian life you’re willing to let this study challenge?

5. Prayer time (15 minutes)

__:15 - __:30

__:30 - __:45

- i. Ask for specific prayer requests from members.
- ii. Pray for one another as you wish.
- iii. Write down these prayer requests so you can follow up in the next meeting.

HOMEWORK

Week of October 12th

- ☐ Complete Ephesians 1:15–23 Bible study.
- ☐ Read *Billings* Ch. 1, “Adopted by the Triune God.”
- ☐ Decide who will be facilitating next week. The agenda can be **found online**.

** Make sure you fill out the “Weekly Feedback Form” and the “Post Grad Group Facilitator Evaluation” at <http://gracehamptons.org/postgrad>