We Are Chosen

SERIES BIG IDEA
Working through the book of Ephesians, we will discover where we are, and our next step on the PATHWAY with Jesus.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA
We are chosen and adopted into God’s family through Jesus Christ.

OPENING QUESTIONS
1. How would your closest friend describe you?

2. What parts of their description of you would you agree with? What parts would you disagree with?

OUR TRUE IDENTITY
How others view us has influence on how we see ourselves. One of the most profound ways to understand our real identity is knowing, understanding and internalizing who God says we are.

Paul, an early follower of Jesus who went on to plant the very first Churches, wrote the Book of Ephesians. He later wrote letters back to these Churches to teach them about their new life as Christ Followers. The first chapter of Ephesians reveals the beauty and profound reality of how God views our identity when we choose to follow Jesus. Following Jesus is not about the right behaviors, but instead, it’s about letting the truth of who God says we are form our identity. When we internalize our true identity our character naturally begins to reflect what God says about us.

BIBLE DISCUSSION
3. Go around the room and share one word that you believe God thinks or feels about you?

4. How did you arrive at this belief?

Read Ephesians 1:1-14
5. What stands out to you in this passage of scripture?

6. List all of the “blessings” that Paul says someone has when they are “in Christ”. Pick the one that feels most important to you in this season of life.

Paul is drawing attention to all that is true of someone when they choose to follow Jesus. Paul says that we are chosen by God and adopted into His family!

7. Notice verse 4. Before the world was ever established, God knew and loved you. How does this statement make you feel?

OUR IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST FIRST
Most people identify themselves by what they do rather than who they are. To be “in Christ” means to identify with Jesus, first and foremost. Things like race, gender, job, performance, human relationships, careers, hobbies, affiliations or political party, are not our primary identity.
Our primary identity is in Christ alone. Paul says, we are primarily identified in God’s eyes as “in” and “with” Christ and this affects all the other relationships and things that occupy our time.

Paul says this in Colossians 3:3  “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” The word “hidden” means to find your “true self”. We find ourselves when we find Jesus. This is God's vision for our identity.

8. Pick something you do, relationship you are in, or possession you have that makes you feel really good about yourself.

9. If this thing activity, person or possession went away, how would this affect your self-esteem or personal identity?

10. How do you think identifying with Christ helps your find your “true self”?

MICRO GROUP
Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Micro groups should be same sex – all men or all women. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

11. What is the primary thing in your life that you rely on to feel good about yourself?

12. What will it take for you time grow in finding your identity in Christ?

H2O – Habits to Outcome
Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, accountability, journaling, and serving) lead to the outcomes of Character Transformation* and Calling Activation*. In this series we will focus on the habit of Bible engagement as we read through the Book of Ephesians together.

13. What gets in the way of you reading the Bible on a regular basis?

This week we will:

Sign up for the Reading Plan by texting PATHWAY to 74574. This week we will ready Ephesians chapter 1, four times in four different translations.

Check out PATHWAY (pathway.restorecc.org). Go to the “about” tab, and read about the 3 different mile markers of PATHWAY. Think about what mile marker on the journey best describes you in this season of your journey, Explore, Follow or Influence.

Close your micro group by praying for each other.

*Character Transformation means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

*Calling Activation means that you are living our your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)