



Ephesians 1 – Vision Sunday

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see.

1. If you stopped a few people at random in the supermarket and asked them "What's the purpose of the church?", what do you think they might say?

Read through the passage. As you read, recognise that Ephesians 1 is one of the most overwhelmingly beautiful and profound chapters in the Bible. Hear every 'us' and 'you' as including *you*! Allow the grandeur of what's being said to affect both your thinking and also your emotions. Read it slowly and carefully, as you'd imagine Paul might have spoken it. Then discuss these questions together.

2. Looking at vv3-14, list all the things God has done for the Christian.
3. Try putting into your own words the great thing God is doing in the world today (vv8b-10)? What is being described here?
4. What is our purpose within this plan of God (vv11-12)?
5. How does it make you feel to think that your 'purpose' as a Christian is to bring glory to God? Does that strike you as a worthwhile use of a life?
6. In what areas of our lives is it possible to 'glorify God'? Explain your answer.
7. When we talk about the purpose of 'the church', we're talking about the purpose God has given *each* of us, since *we are* the church. Read our purpose statement below (I've replaced 'we' with 'I'). Is there a particular area you sense God prompting you to grow in – knowing, loving, serving, sharing? Can you suggest one practical step you could take to glorify God more in this area of your life? Share these steps to encourage and help each other.

"I exist to glorify God by knowing him better, loving one another, serving our community and sharing the message of Jesus everywhere I go."

8. If you have time, discuss which elements of our 'Purpose' most excite you and why.

Respond to God's word in prayer

Take some time to pray for each other

Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."

(Taken from Lead by Paul Tripp, p42)