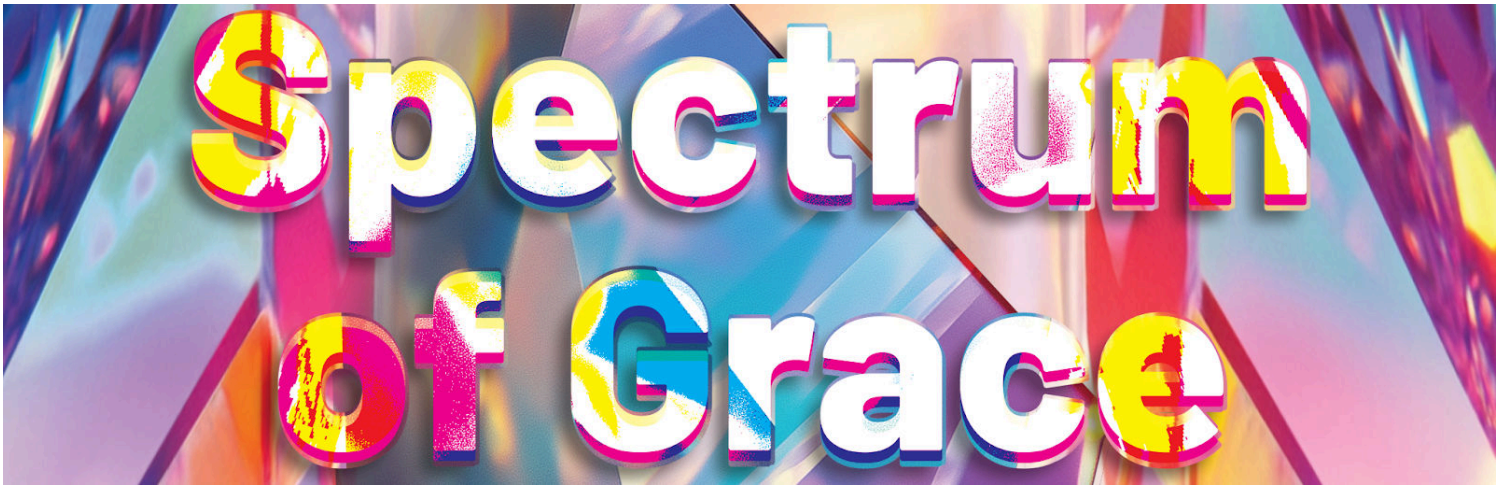


Week of March 23, 2025 - Focal Point

Small Group Lesson 1

Connect

Share one thing about your culture that is different from other cultures that you enjoy or appreciate. It can be food, a tradition, or a celebration.

Verses - Ephesians 1:1-6 (NKJV)

Read aloud:

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In v.1, Paul calls himself an 'apostle.' What does that mean? Why does he say he is an apostle '*by the will of God*'? Why is it important he identifies himself as an apostle?

2. In v.4 Paul explains why God chose us. What is the main purpose? (See: the last word in the verse, and Ephesians 3:17; 4:2, 15, 16; 5:2)

3. In v.5, Paul explains the reasons God predestined us to adoption as sons… according to the good pleasure of His will. What is the reason we are in Christ, according to v.6?

Share

Discuss 1:

In the message, Pastor Jesse shared a story about eating Christmas dinner with a different American culture. How does the idea of accepting a new culture relate to how we should share the culture of the Kingdom of God with others? How can we, as Christians, share the 'new culture' (grace, love, acceptance) of God's Kingdom with those around us?"

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.