

MYSTERY

LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

SAINTS, Ephesians 1:1-2—September 30, 2018

Rooting his authority in a divine appointment by God, the Apostle Paul affirms the “set apart” nature of the Ephesian believers while blessing them with God’s grace and peace.

CONNECT

1. In today’s digital world, personalized letters mean a lot. Talk about a time that you received a card, note or letter that impacted you deeply.
2. How do you define yourself? Pick 3–4 words that describe the core of who you are. Would you include “saint” in that list?
3. When you hear the word “saint,” what comes to mind? Before you heard this message, how would you define what makes someone a saint?

CELEBRATE

4. The New Testament never refers to Christians as sinners. Instead, it calls us saints. According to Scripture, what makes a person a saint? See Philippians 4:21–23, Colossians 1:1–2 and 1 Peter 1:2 for additional examples.
5. What does it mean to be “set apart” by God? How is every believer “set apart” from the moment we first believe?
6. The Apostle Paul says “grace and peace to you.” How is the letter of Ephesians itself a demonstration of God’s grace to them?
7. Why does it matter that Paul gives them grace and peace from “our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?” How would the meaning change if it only listed one name instead of both?
8. Before Paul gives any commands or teaching to his audience, he establishes their identity—they are saints. Why does it matter to know who we are? Why does Paul begin this way?
9. Paul also establishes his own identity, that he is an apostle by the will of God. Who is God calling you to be? Are you able to articulate the call of God on your life?

CONTRIBUTE

11. In 2 Corinthians 3:2–3, Paul writes that we are “living letters” of Christ. How do we live this out?
12. In contrast to this, we often slip into the error of thinking that we are saints because of what we do. How can we avoid this?
13. When you wake up tomorrow, how can you remind yourself that God calls you “saint”? How can you keep this in your mind as you go about your day?

PRAY

Thank God for giving us His grace and peace. Thank Him for the gift of Jesus who allows us to be called saints. Pray for the ability to walk out our calling as a set apart people who rely on the Holy Spirit.