

## **DISCUSSION:**

Discuss the question cluster below

(As much or as little as works for your group and in any order you like)

\*Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally\*

We're starting a new sermon series from the first half of the book of Ephesians called, "Grace and Peace" In it we're looking at the Apostle Paul's letter, written as a reminder to a church helped plant (in Ephesus) about the heart of the faith, so the church could press on it. Paul's summary of the heart of the faith comes out in the opening verses of chapter. It's (v.2) "Grace and Peace." That's the heart of the faith Paul wants them to remember. Our hope is that through this series we would have more of both in our lives *and* that we would show more of both to those around us.

**I. This week, we looked at Eph. 1:7-14 and what it had to show us about the riches and mystery of God's grace. We saw how in grace, God gives us much more than we expect and that he does that generous, overflowing giving on purpose. He chooses to be ridiculously gracious with us, even us. And the further mystery of this rich grace is that he gives it to us in a person – Jesus. The mystery of it is not just that Jesus would do this for us through the cross, but that his grace has to be something that comes to find you, or it stops being grace. If it's something you find through your effort or intention, it just becomes a reward for what you've done. The mystery of grace is that has to have nothing to do with you from start to finish.**

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. What are some ways you don't feel very 'rich' right now (i.e., in your health, relationships, work, faith, etc.)?
  - 1. *If you're perfectly honest, do you feel like Jesus wants to come and find you in that? Why or why not?*
  - 2. *What would change in your thinking about that part of your life if you believed that not only does Jesus want to find you, he's already there? How would things change if you knew he was next to you in all that right now?*
- C. If you genuinely believed and lived like you had the kind of spiritual and eternal richness this passage talks about, what's one thing you would do differently tomorrow?
  - 1. *What would you stop doing or start doing? (or do more or less of?)*
- D. Does it feel more natural to have grace be a thing you go find (that you end up being worthy enough to have or working hard enough to deserve) rather than a person (Jesus) who comes to find you?
  - 1. *What's appealing/comfortable about having grace be something you find (or are supposed to find) on your own?*
  - 2. *How might it feel like a relief if you didn't have to be responsible for finding it on your own?*