

ROOTED IN GRACE WEEK 1 – GRACE OVERFLOWING

THEME: IDENTITY IN CHRIST, ABUNDANT GRACE, AND BEING SEALED BY THE SPIRIT

OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious God,
You call us beloved before we do anything to earn it.
Open our hearts to receive your grace,
our minds to trust who you say we are,
and our lives to reflect your love.
Root us in the assurance that we belong to you. Amen.*

READ ALOUD

Ephesians Chapter 1

CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

Paul opens Ephesians not with instruction, but with praise. **Before behavior comes belonging.** Writing to a diverse and pressured church, Paul reminds them that their identity is grounded not in empire, achievement, or fear, but in God’s eternal grace.

Chosen, redeemed, sealed, and empowered, the church is invited to live from this deep well of blessing.

LIVING THE WORD

- **Personally:** What voice or narrative do you need to let go of so God’s grace can define you?
- **In our families:** How can we speak grace and blessing more intentionally at home?
- **In our congregation:** Where might we need to reclaim our shared identity in Christ rather than our differences?
- **In our community:** How can we reflect a grace that welcomes rather than excludes?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What words or images stand out to you in Paul’s description of God’s grace?
2. How does Paul’s language of being “chosen” and “adopted” challenge common ideas about worth or success?
3. What difference does it make to see yourself as sealed by the Spirit rather than defined by your failures or fears?
4. Where do you find it hardest to trust that God’s grace is truly abundant?
5. How does Paul connect Christ’s authority to hope for the church?

CLOSING LITANY

One: *Before the foundation of the world, God chose us in love.*

All: *We receive this grace, not as something earned, but as a gift.*

One: *We are redeemed, sealed, and held by the Spirit.*

All: *Ground us in who we are in Christ.*

One: *Go now, rooted in grace.*

All: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*