

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
EPHESIANS 1:1-14

[N.B: Questions for this study are from both Bryson Smith and David Jackman's Ephesians studies at <http://www.gotherefor.com>]

Read Ephesians 1:1-14.

1. List all the things that God has done for us. Is there any spiritual blessing that impresses you more than the rest? If so, which one and why?
2. "In the heavenly places" is an unusual phrase (v3), indicating the nature of our spiritual blessings in Christ. What do you think it means? Check your answer out against its other uses in this letter (1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12).
3. What role does Jesus have in our receiving spiritual blessings?
4. What are some possible reasons why God would bless us so much? What reasons does Paul give for this (vv 4, 7, 9)?
5. If we were actually chosen before the foundation of the world (v4), to what extent can this depend on our own abilities/character?
6. Why are redemption and forgiveness so dependent on God's grace (v7)?
7. In verse 11, Paul uses "we" to talk about himself and fellow early Jewish believers. He then uses "you" in v13 to talk about the Gentile Christians. We are Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians – what blessings do we now experience – and how did we come to get them (vs 13-14)?
8. If we are blessed with every spiritual blessing, why is it that we so often feel discontent in our lives? Can these verses help us?
9. What does the future hold for us according to Paul?
10. "Being a Christian is bad for your self-esteem." Do you agree? What does this passage tell us about ourselves?
11. If Christ is at the centre of God's plans for everything, is he at the centre of yours? How should your priorities be shaped by Ephesians 1:3-14?