

## **Sermon Series:** Blueprint: God's Design for the Church

### **Sermon Passage:** Ephesians 1:7-12

**Getting Started:** What is the church? Is it a building? How does a church become a church? What has God accomplished for the church? What is the church supposed to do? We will be exploring those questions and more as we journey through Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Ephesians 1:7. How does Paul define redemption in verse 7?
2. Read Ephesians 1:7-10. Why does God redeem us? Discover and name all of the reasons for redemption in these verses.
3. The promise of Ephesians 1 is that Christ has forgiven us of our sins. As a believer in Christ, how does this truth change how you respond to the guilt and shame of your daily sin?
4. Paul says that redemption is "through his (Christ's) blood." Do you believe that the grace of God can be "lavished" on anyone? How does redemption become a reality in someone's life? If redemption is a reality to you, how and when did that happen? Share your story.
5. How would you summarize Paul's message in this passage in 2-3 sentences? Who can you share the truth of this passage with this week?

### **This week:**

Thank God each day for the forgiveness of sins. Tell God each day that you trust His redemption plan for you and for the world. When life is tough this week, be sure to tell God that you trust Him to "work all things according to the counsel of his will."