FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
NOVEMBER 1

"THE GOOD NEWS IS..."
WEEK 5 - EPHESIANS 1:3-23

Scripture References

- **Ephesians 1:3-23**

Quick Re-Cap

Paul wrote Ephesians to Christians living in a city that worshiped a goddess named Artemis and even rioted against the church. Still, he began his letter with good news. God became a man in Jesus. Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved, and he took our place. Now everyone who is in Jesus has every spiritual blessing. That means nothing is missing, and it includes the Holy Spirit living inside of us to help us! Ephesians 1 also says God chose His church before the world was even made. God always planned to have a family who belongs to Him, and He wants every single person to come to Him. But love that is forced is not real love, so **each of us gets to choose whether to say yes to Jesus**. We are also redeemed, which means bought back. The price was the blood of Jesus, and no amount of good behavior could ever pay it. The same price was paid for us all and we all have the same value. The result is that we cannot brag about being saved, and we can never look down on anyone else for being "less valuable" than we are. Our inheritance, everything God has promised us, is all for the praise of His glory! Paul prayed that God would open the eyes of our hearts to see how great and powerful He really is.

Illustration

Imagine your family is heading to the place you love most in the whole world. Your parents bought the tickets, and you did not earn a single one by doing chores. Your seat is saved with your name on it, and the plane has nothing wrong with it, so it will land right where it is supposed to. But nobody is going to carry you onto that plane. You have to walk down the hallway and choose to get on. Imagine how silly it would be to sit at the gate holding a ticket that was already paid for. God has offered us the free gift of salvation. Jesus paid the price, the plan is set, and the destination is being with Him forever. Our part is to say yes and get on board!

Application

Remember, you are not missing out on anything. If you belong to Jesus, God has already given you every spiritual blessing, including the Holy Spirit. If you have never told Jesus yes, talk with a parent or leader today. If you have, keep following Him every day. Stay humble and kind. You did not earn your place and neither did anyone else, so never look down on other people. Pray Paul's prayer and ask God to open the eyes of your family's and friends' hearts so they can know Jesus more.

Convo Starters

- **What is one blessing from God that you are thankful for this week?**
- **Why do you think God lets us choose instead of forcing us to love Him?**
- **If Jesus already paid the price, why can't we earn our way to God by being good?**
- **Who is one person we can thank God for together, and what can we pray for them?**