

“A Prepared Place”

Winter Circle Groups | Week #2

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this week’s Circle Group discussion, we continue our journey of discipleship by discussing identity and purpose. Did you know we each all have a unique purpose with which we have been created? According to Jeremiah 29:11, no matter where you find yourself in life, God is not surprised. He has a purpose for each of us that is not limited by our background, past decisions or future mistakes. He has factored in our pasts and future decisions and has made the proper preparations. God has prepared a place for us! This week we will discover the characteristics of our prepared place, identify our individual seats, and gain the tools necessary to assume our “prepared places” with confidence. Let’s get started!

KEY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 2:1-10 | Luke 2:52

Additional Scriptures: Jer. 29:11, Matt. 25:34, 1 Cor. 2:9, Eph. 2:1-10, Matt 22:1-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The prepared place is less of a physical location, and more an understanding of our position in Christ. The “prepared place” is one of Peace, Power and Prominence. This position is a gift from God that we do nothing to deserve and can never be taken away. **Read Matthew 25:34 How does it encourage you to know that there is a special place in God’s household just for you**
- Due to past decisions and life circumstances, we can feel unqualified to accept God’s gift of grace and hesitant that our seat is secure. If you feel this way, take heart, your seat at the table is reserved! The enemy he can sow seeds of doubt, but he cannot prevent you from taking your rightful place at God’s family table! **Read 1 Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 2:1-10 and Matthew 22:1-14 In what ways have you felt disqualified from God’s best? How do these scriptures challenge this line of thinking?**
- Just like any family, as members of the Body of Christ, we are all different – we all have something to add. This means that our unique gifts are specifically designed to benefit the kingdom of God (God’s Family). Not only does sitting in our “prepared places” benefit ourselves, it benefits the family around us! **What gifts and talents has God prepared for and placed inside you? How did you discover your gift?** (*Perhaps you are creative, or have a special skill or have a personality that inspires others? Was it pointed out, taught, or discovered by a less-than-ideal situation; did you take a test?*)

- Let's take this idea of gifts a step further. Gifts are not given to bestow value; they are given to demonstrate a value that already exists. Therefore, when we receive a gift that we do not utilize, we do not absorb its value for ourselves; we instead diminish the overall effectiveness of the gift itself. The same is true with our God-given gifts. Our gifts become most valuable through regular use and get stronger through intentional development! **Are you currently utilizing your gift to its fullest potential? If not, why not? What is one practical thing that you can do to utilize and develop your God-given gift this week?** (*Things to think about: How can my gift serve someone? How could it grow even stronger?*)

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Sitting in a prepared place requires a certain level of confidence and carries an undeniable authority. It is not enough to sit; we must STAY SEATED. When we accept our God given identity, cultivate our God given gifts and remain in our God Given seats, anything can happen! **Sitting in our “prepared places” is the catalyst to bringing the Kingdom of God to the earth! Let's be intentional this week to remember the authority that we carry, unselfishly serve others, and watch the change that occurs!**

Challenge: *Be intentional this week and serve someone else with your gift (Ideas include: Writing a thoughtful note of encouragement, helping someone in need, being generous with your time, utilizing a special skill for someone unable to repay the favor, the list goes on!) Check back in next week with your group to let them know what happened!*

**Note, for those who may not know what “gift(s)” God has prepared for you to walk in, consider taking a spiritual gift test this week! There are many versions of this test available, but a great place to start is [GiftsTest.com!](https://www.giftstest.com)

- **Songs of Encouragement:**
 - [Who You Say I Am](#) (Hillsong Worship)
 - [Not Lucky, I'm Loved](#) (Jonathan McReynolds)