

EPHESIANS

Belonging

Main Scripture: Ephesians 1:13-14

The free will of man (v 13)

(Jn 1:12, Gen 2:16, Col 1:22-23)

and the sovereignty of God (v 13-14)

(Eph 1:4-5, 11, 13-14; Rev 19:11)

may feel irreconcilable

but they work together to bring great assurance
of our salvation in Christ.

(1 Tim 2:4, Jn 3:16, 2 Pet 1:3-11)

How to Belong to the Kingdom of God

1. Acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that you need Him in your life.
John 14:6, "I [Jesus] am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."
2. Are willing to turn from the things that God would not approve of as outlined in the Bible, and instead, decide to live according to His Word; honor Jesus Christ by how you live your life. (Repentance)
1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and accept His payment on your behalf.
John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life. Expect the Holy Spirit to live with you, live in you and give you power to live His way.

This prayer enables you to live eternally with Christ in heaven:

Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and I trust in You alone for my salvation. I choose to turn away from the things in my life of which You don't approve and now surrender my life to You. I invite You to come and reign and rule in my heart and life and open my spirit. Establish Your presence within me. I want to know the power of the Holy Spirit working in me and live forever with You in the Kingdom of God. I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Heartland Kids Weekend Bulletin

October 17-18, 2020

Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.



The Free Will of Man

- The Gospel message is the truth, that Jesus died for us to bring us to God. We have been given free will to choose to accept Jesus into our hearts and follow the kingdom way. In Ephesians 1:12 we put our **trust** in Christ. In verse 13 we were included in Christ; we heard the message of truth, the gospel of salvation – which we can only have when we believe. This requires action for us and exercises our free will. It is our choice to follow and accept Jesus.

Sovereignty of God

- When talking about the Sovereignty of God, we are talking about His supreme power and authority. There is no one or thing greater than Him in all creation! He can do what He wants when He wants! God is amazing! He knows who will accept Him and who won't accept Him!

God's sovereign election and man's exercise of responsibility in choosing Jesus Christ seem opposite and irreconcilable.

- One extreme example is people who feel that God is in control of all events, that all decisions have been made.
- Another extreme example is those who feel insecure about their salvation.
- Our challenge is to learn to guide our way through these two extremes or we will miss the point of God's work in our lives.

They work together to bring great assurance of our salvation in Christ.

- Recognize that He is the supreme ruler of the universe and appreciate that He is ultimately loving. Thank Him for the future guarantee He has given us – the Holy Spirit. Trust His goodness. Trust when the Bible says He *“wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”* 1 Timothy 2:4.

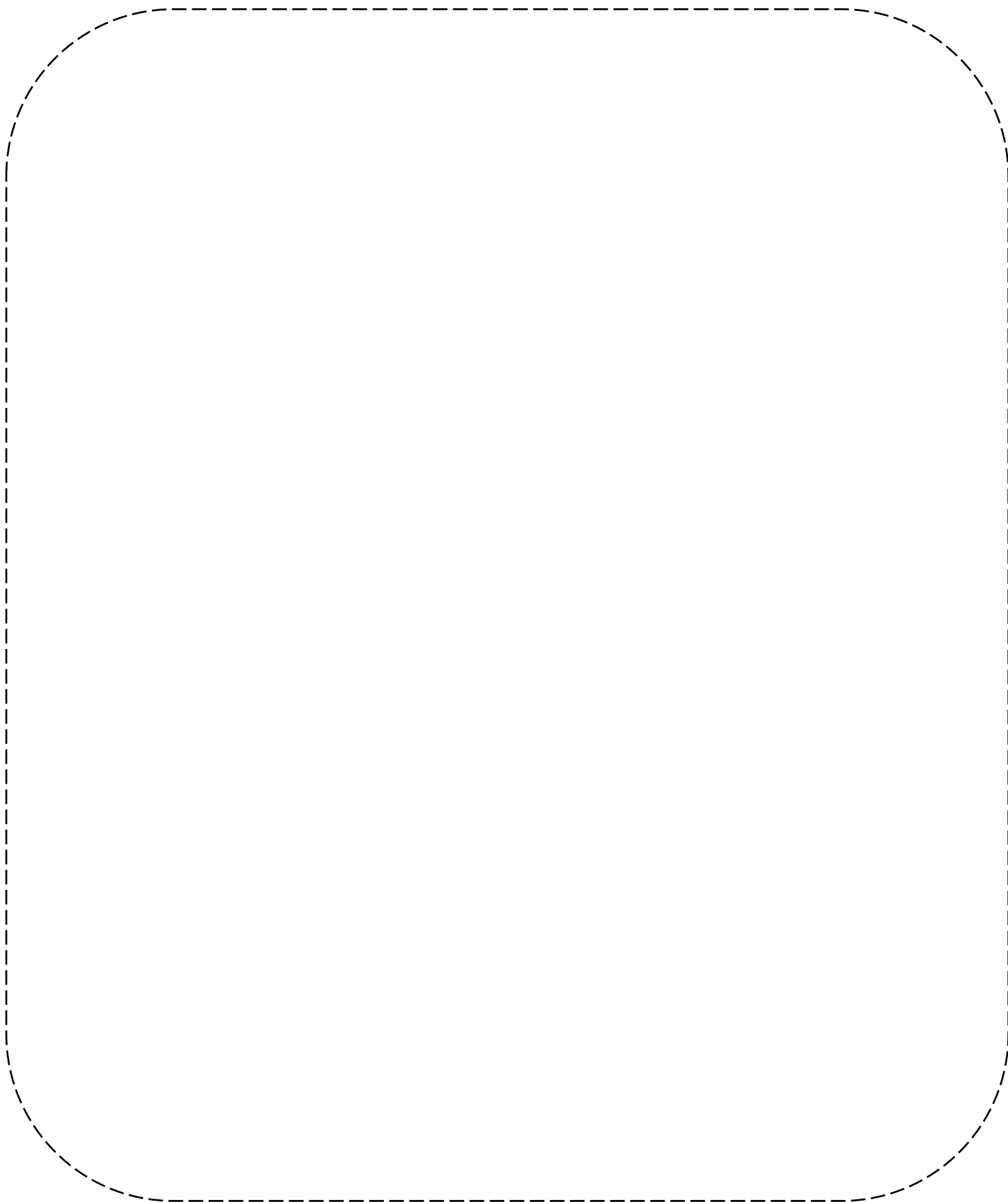
Some questions to discuss as a family:

How do you respond to knowing God is sovereign and has given us a free will to choose our destiny?

How has practicing gratitude been going?

Have there been any people with whom you have had the opportunity to share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus?

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED TODAY



Family Challenge

Spend time baking together as a family this weekend!

Check out the Heartland Kids weekly lesson page for this month's colouring contest!
Make sure to send in your submissions to be entered for prizes!

Submissions – kids@heartlandalliance.ca.

Word Search

This week there is a new challenge! See how many of the following words you can find below. You can send your finished word searches in to kids@heartlandalliance.ca or take a picture and tag us on social media!

Trust	Praise
Gospel	Glory
Salvation	Acceptance
Christ	Believe
Sovereignty	Ephesians

S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	T	Y	Z	X	C	V	B
Q	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	N	M	G	Q	W	E	R	T
P	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	Y	U	L	U	I	O	P	A
K	Z	X	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	D	F	G	H
C	V	B	N	C	N	M	Q	J	K	R	K	L	Z	X	C
W	E	R	T	C	Y	U	I	V	B	Y	N	M	B	Q	F
O	P	A	S	E	D	F	G	W	E	R	T	Y	E	U	I
H	J	K	L	P	P	L	Z	O	P	M	N	B	L	V	E
C	G	X	Z	T	R	U	S	T	H	G	G	F	I	D	P
Z	O	A	S	A	A	F	G	D	S	A	W	X	E	V	H
H	S	J	K	N	I	W	E	B	N	M	L	K	V	H	E
R	P	C	V	C	S	B	N	J	G	F	D	S	E	A	S
M	E	Q	R	E	E	T	Y	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I
J	L	K	M	N	B	V	C	J	U	K	I	L	O	P	A
X	Z	A	S	D	F	G	H	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	N
K	P	O	I	J	N	G	F	C	H	R	I	S	T	Y	S

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The Small Group Sermon Study

Ephesians 1:13-14

Opening Prayer: Father, in Jesus’ name, through the Holy Spirit, come and speak to us, teach us and transform us as we read, discuss and reflect on Your word.

1. Big Picture: What did you like or appreciate about this message? What challenged you in this message?
2. Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the points from the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:
 - a. What did you learn about God’s sovereignty that was new for you?
 - b. What did you learn about our free will that was new for you?
 - c. How do these verses and this message impact your relationship with Jesus?
 - d. How do these verses and this message impact your conversations with people who don’t yet have a personal relationship with Jesus?
3. How do you respond to others (perhaps even in our small group) who see this issue differently than you do?

Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

4. What emotions does this passage, or the key theme, stir up in you?
5. What verse, phrase or word do you need to take with you this week? How will you act on what you’ve heard?

Prayer: Spend time praying for one another (that we would grow in our love for God and others, that we would be transformed by what God has revealed, that we would be alert and obedient to God, etc.).