



Savior & Surprise

Selected Scriptures | March 20th - 26th, 2016

Warm Up: In the first week of our study, *Beauty & Brokenness*, we saw how God loved and chose us before the world began (**Eph. 1:4**). The next week in, *Promise & Plan*, we saw how man chose sin but God chose *redemption* and chose to bless the world through the faith of Abraham (**Gen. 12:1-3**). To begin your time, reflect upon **Ephesians 1:3-10** together.

- ❖ In this passage, where do you see God's love and plan?

In **verse 5** it says we are *adopted* as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ.

- ❖ What's the significance of being adopted? How does this speak to you?

Pastor George asked an important and life altering question in his message this week - *Who is Jesus?* The Old Testament has over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus. The following passages are just a few of these prophecies: Read aloud: **2 Samuel 7:14; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-2, 53:5; Daniel 9:25; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9; 12:10; Mal. 3:1.**

- ❖ How do these prophecies and promises help you answer the question, *who is Jesus?*

In the New Testament, Jesus' own words and promises proclaimed who He was. Read **John 8:58, 10:10, 14:6** and **6:40**. Jesus is the Hero of the greatest redemptive narrative of all time. In obedience to the Father, Jesus accomplished His life's mission: The Cross. In Mark's gospel, Jesus shares with beautiful simplicity, what is required to have our sins forgiven: "*The time promised by God has come at last!*" he announced. *'The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!'*" - Mark 1:15

- ❖ Why is this a problematic message to our culture today?
- ❖ What is the difference between *knowing* and *believing*?
- ❖ How do we live out a believing faith today?

Wrap Up: "The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man." - John Stott. As we head into Good Friday and Easter, spend some meditating on how the Cross has changed your life. Pray and ask God whom you should invite to the Easter services. Pray that God's Spirit would move powerfully and draw people to Himself!