

# STORYLINE

Group Discussion Guide // Week 3

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## WARM-UP

1. What kind of stories pique your interest? What kind of stories lose your interest easily?
  2. What's the biggest life decision you've had to make? What was the process of making that decision like for you?
  3. In your opinion, what makes for a life well lived?
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## TRUTH

*In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)*

Paul wrote Ephesians from a Roman prison. You might expect his writing to be weighed down by the difficulty of his situation. Instead, he exults in the glorious inheritance he has obtained because of the gospel. We may be in the middle of our story, waiting for God to restore what is broken in creation, but we have reason for great hope and determination to stay the course.

## Our Inheritance Is Certain

*In him we have obtained an inheritance... (Ephesians 1:11)*

Life is not an audition in front of God. He's not taking score to see whether or not you'll qualify for the inheritance he offers. He already made the decision. Jesus passed the audition and when we believe in him, we obtain the inheritance. This certainty ought to make us secure in our hope.

### Discussion Question

What damage can uncertainty do in a person's life?

## All Things Are Under His Control

*...the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...  
(Ephesians 1:11)*

Because God is sovereign, nothing takes him by surprise. Not only does nothing surprise him, but he has the power to work out “all things” for his will. This means that even the most difficult experience or dire failure can be used by God for his glory and your good. After all, before Paul started his ministry, he killed and imprisoned Christians. If anyone knew God’s ability to use every circumstance for his will, it was Paul.

### Discussion Question

What makes this claim difficult to believe at times?

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## GRACE

### We Glorify Him On The Journey

*...so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.  
(Ephesians 1:11-12)*

God has given us a downpayment on our inheritance in the Holy Spirit. Even though we’re waiting to take possession of our inheritance, we are able to live a life that glorifies him here and now. As we take this hope into our daily lives, we glorify God while we wait for the return of Jesus and the full realization of our inheritance in the renewed creation.

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## CHANGE

1. How does the inheritance that God has for you make a difference in what you expect in this life?
2. In what specific ways are you endeavoring to glorify God in your life right now?
3. How does the assurance of God’s control over life events affect you?

Pray for the revelation of God’s hope that helps you stay the course.