

# Ephesians: Sit. Walk. Stand. (Adapted from HTB)

## Session Two: Inheritance - Knowing our inheritance in Christ

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

(5–15 minutes)

Pray as you begin, asking God to be at work in your group, and enjoy a short time of worship together (e.g. singing, soaking, waiting on God in silence, praying through a Psalm, journalling etc.).

Introduction

(5 minutes)

**[Read the paragraphs below aloud to introduce the session.]**

In the previous session we thought about “Identity” and how our identity is often bound up in things other than Jesus. In this session we will be looking at how “Identity” and “Inheritance” are inter-related.

Your identity determines whether or not you inherit. When a last will and testament is read out by a solicitor, if your name doesn't come up, it's just too bad! Receiving an inheritance can make a massive difference to your life. You can pay off debts, do things you never thought possible, go places, etc. Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 1:18 that we have a 'glorious inheritance.'

This session's theme is about knowing our inheritance in Christ.

Bible study

(20 minutes)

**[Read aloud Read Ephesians 1:7-23 and 2:4-6.]**

1. Work through the passage together and try to identify what exactly we have inherited in Christ. Discuss.
2. Talk through this list of inheritance:

**Grace, redemption and Forgiveness:** v 7: “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the richness of God's grace”.

**Wisdom and understanding:** We have been given wisdom and understanding – we know how this story ends: through Jesus the victory has been won and we know that he is coming back to claim this victory in full. v 8-10: “...He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”.

**Holy Spirit and Eternal Life:** We have been given the Holy Spirit, bringing us a glimpse of what is to come in the future: v 13-14: “Having believed you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption”.

**Power and Authority:** We have at our disposal the power of God v 19: “(that you may know) his incomparably great power for us who believe”.

Movie/Audio Clip

(10 minutes)

Watch/listen to the clip from Mike Pilavachi's “Sit. Walk. Stand.” teaching on Ephesians.

**Youtube link:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDXdVCYf5J8>

## Sit: An inheritance can transform how you live

1. Was there anything from Mike Pilavachi's teaching or this illustration that had an effect on you? Did you see or hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. When talking about receiving our inheritance, Mike Pilavachi says the following: It's not so much asking for more of God, it's understanding how much of God we have already got. Does this change the understanding of your inheritance in Christ? How?
3. Read Ephesians 1:18. What, in your opinion, is the role of divine revelation in embracing your inheritance in Christ?
4. A clergyman from HTB tells this story:

"When I had been living in London for a year, I had to move out of the house I was living in and wasn't sure where I was going to live. I wasn't earning enough money to be able to afford a full London rent. However, a friend of mine had received some money from her granny, and so decided to use it to buy a flat. Amazingly the money was enough to mean that she didn't have to take out a mortgage. And as a result she enabled me and another friend of mine to live completely rent free for two years! All three of us benefited enormously from this inheritance my friend had received. It meant that my friend could afford to train to be a nurse and I could pursue training for ordination without the burden of worrying about finances, or trying to get a job on the side of already busy lives. This inheritance was a huge blessing and I'm so grateful to my friend for using it in such a way."

The great news is that God 'loves us because he loves us because he loves us'. This can be a difficult thing for us to grasp. How would truly believing this statement in your heart affect the way you live your life? Would it make a difference?

## Sit: The authority we have in Christ

1. Identify and discuss some examples of people who have authority as a result of their position. An example might be a policeman. He has authority not on his own, but because of the uniform and badge he wears – it is what this uniform/badge represents (the law) that gives the policeman authority. In Christ we have the authority.
2. Ephesians 2:6 says, 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.' What does this mean for you? Think of ways you exercise the authority of Christ in your daily life? Perhaps you don't. Consider how this could be different?

Pray that you would be able to take hold of the inheritance you have in Christ.