

Talk Two: Knowing Our Inheritance in Christ:

Timing: 30-45 minutes, then leading into ministry

Buzz groups: Pairs or groups of 3-4 will work best

Illustrations: Suggestions are noted, but your own ideas and stories are preferable

Introduction:

ILLUSTRATION: (use own or this one)

There was a man who used to sit outside the entrance to HTB each week begging. He lived on the streets. When he died, Nicky Gumbel was asked to take his funeral. Surprisingly, given that he'd been living on the streets, lots of family turned up to the funeral – and Nicky found out that this man had actually received a huge inheritance – he could have been living a totally different life – he could have had a home, money to buy food, clothes etc. But he had never made use of his inheritance – instead choosing to stay living on the streets and begging for food.

KEY INTRODUCTORY POINT: Our natural reaction to this story is to think, 'How strange!' But this story actually resembles how we live our lives far more closely than we would expect. **Even if we know that we have an inheritance from God, we often don't access it or make the most of it.**

USEFUL QUOTE: 'God is so wealthy that his chief delight is to give. His treasure-stores are so full that it is pain to him when we refuse him an opportunity of lavishing those treasures upon us.' - Watchman Nee.

1. Know what your inheritance in Christ is:

BUZZ GROUPS: Go through chapter 1 and count/list how many things make up our inheritance.

(Child of God, grace, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, understanding, salvation, Holy Spirit, power, authority, eternal life) – and this isn't even a complete list!

KEY POINT: Talk through this list of inheritance:

- **GRACE, REDEMPTION, 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 fulfilment – 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) And his incomparably great power for us who believe.'**

Perhaps choose one of these to focus on (whichever you feel is most relevant to your group.)

ILLUSTRATION: Share a testimony if possible about how one of these aspects this has impacted your life.

2. Let your inheritance in Christ transform how you live:

KEY VERSE: *Ch. 1: 18: 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...'*

KEY POINT: Receiving an inheritance can be an enormous blessing. It can transform our lives and how we live.

ILLUSTRATION: Try to think of a story that illustrates the blessing of inheritance.

(For example: 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 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.)

APPLICATION: The main way in which we can begin to live using our inheritance is to ask the spirit to fully reveal to us what the different parts of this inheritance are, and then to ask the spirit to bring those parts of our inheritance to life in us.

3. Realise the Authority you have in Christ:

ILLUSTRATION: story about authority at one's disposal – for example a policeman. He has authority not on his own, but because of the uniform and badge he wears – it is who this uniform/badge represents (the law) that gives the policeman authority. Try to think of a time when you had a run in with the police (speeding etc) and why you immediately pull over when you see the blue flashing lights!

KEY POINT: One of the main aspects of this inheritance that we often neglect/forget about is the authority and power that we have through and in Jesus Christ. This is a fundamental part of our inheritance in Christ. We have all the authority Christ exerted, not on our own, but because we are in Christ.

KEY VERSE: *Ch. 2 v. 6: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.'*

EXPLANATION: Often we can fall into the trap of thinking that the power and authority Jesus demonstrated in his ministry was specially reserved for Him. But this isn't the case – through Jesus' death and resurrection we have all the power and authority that Jesus had:

John 14: 12:

'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do ever greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.'

MINISTRY IDEA: Each group identify an area where they fail to walk in Christ's inheritance and ask the spirit to come and release that within them.