**Who God Says I Am: Ephesians 1-2**

God has blessed us with every blessing in heaven because we belong to Christ. Long before God made the world, he chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault - we who stand before him covered with his love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us.

God has poured out his wonderful kindness and his favor to us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. He took away all our sins through the blood of his Son and he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace so we have become gifts to God that he delights in and points to as examples of his kindness.

We have been saved through trusting Christ – salvation is a gift from God and not a reward for the good we have done. It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.

We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God.