

Ephesians

high conduct

high calling

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Introduction

Welcome to our study of Ephesians, a book that highlights the high calling and conduct of the church, the corporate body of Jesus Christ. Throughout this rich book, we will learn about the church's inherited stewardship, multi-ethnic identity, distinct lifestyle, and spiritual opposition.

The eleven lessons in this packet are designed to walk us through this challenging book of the Bible. During the first lesson (Survey), we will look at the overall message of the book of Ephesians. The next nine lessons will focus on studying key passages in detail. Then, in our last lesson (Synthesis), we will summarize what we have learned for future reference.

In studying each passage in detail, we will be learning and using a number of basic Bible study methods. These methods fit under three fundamental skills that are meant to be practiced in order each week - **observe, interpret, and apply**. These skills are summarized in a "Quick Reference Guide" that you can flip back through during your study. You can find it along with other advanced Bible study skills in the Appendix for those who want to go deeper in their study.

As you use this packet to study Ephesians, please keep in mind a couple of things. There are more questions than you may have time to answer in any given lesson. So focus on the questions that seem most significant to understanding the passage's meaning. And make sure that you don't skip your own observations of the passage as this is the most important step of Bible study.

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EPHESIANS SURVEY

Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

SURVEY: What is the big idea?

SKILLS

Surveying a book like Ephesians allows you to grasp the big picture and the overall storyline of the book before getting caught up in the details. This survey provides a helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next thirty minutes to read straight through Ephesians without stopping. Then, answer the questions below *before* moving on to the next page.

1. How would you describe Paul's relationship to these believers?
2. What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: Look for repeated words and ideas.)
3. Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Paul's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.
4. Based only on Ephesians, how do calling and conduct relate to one another?

Background

Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of Ephesians (portions compiled from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

AUTHORSHIP

Paul was born in Tarsus into Roman citizenship (Acts 22:28) and later educated under the illustrious rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Zealous for the Law, Paul became the chief persecutor of the early church until his conversion when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Immediately, Paul began to proclaim Jesus as Savior, eventually focusing several missionary journeys to the Gentiles throughout Asia Minor. During his journeys, he traveled to Ephesus and ministered there for almost three years (Acts 20:31). After Paul departed from Ephesus, he left Timothy behind to combat false teaching (1 Timothy 1:3). At some later point, Paul wrote this letter while in prison either in Caesarea or Rome as one of his many "Prison Epistles" in A.D. 60-62.



"Saint Paul Writing His Epistles" by Valentin de Boulogne (ca. 16th century)

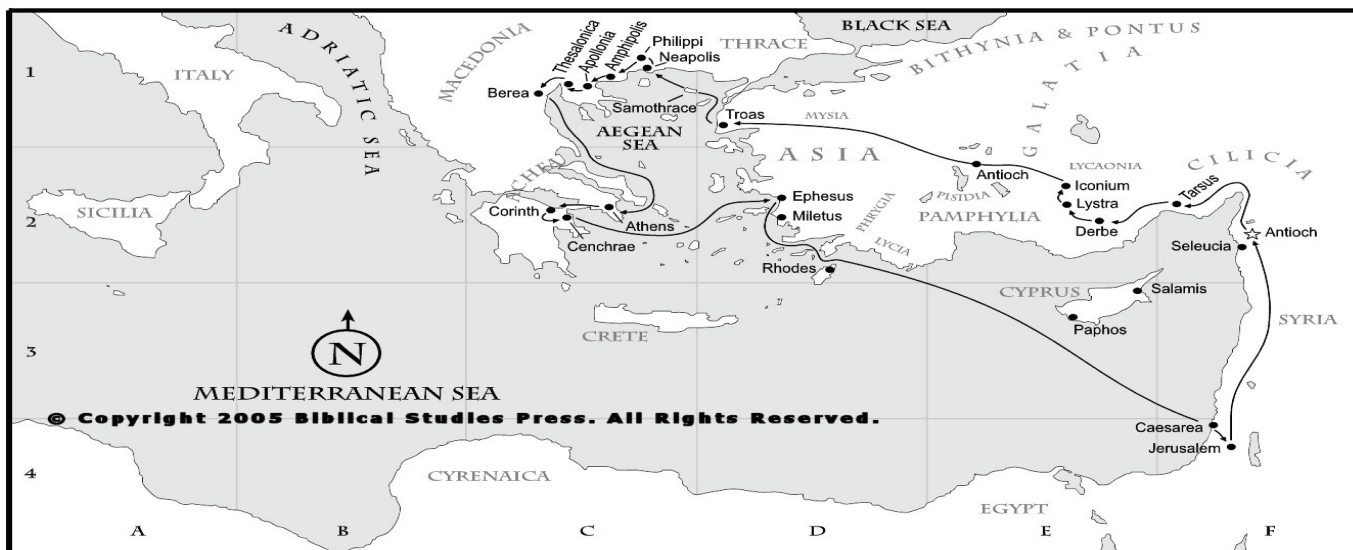
Despite recent debate that the book was written by someone who did not use his own name but instead claimed to be Paul, there is no strong reason to reject Pauline authorship of the book.

RECIPIENTS

Ephesus was a leading city on the west coast of Asia Minor. It essentially linked the western and eastern portions of the Roman Empire on the main highway and even possessed the most favorable seaport in the province of Asia. Due to its location within the Empire, Ephesus exerted great influence culturally, economically, and religiously. With a population over 300,000 people, Ephesus contained a theatre that seated an estimated 25,000 people. It became the center for worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana in Roman mythology), which often included temple prostitution. Her temple ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and became not just a center for worship but also the primary banking institution for all of Asia Minor. As a result, Paul's apostolic ministry that turned people to Christ and away from Artemis represented a significant financial threat to temple-related businesses like that of the silversmith, Demetrius (Acts 19:23-41). Ephesus also became a center of occult practice as many used magic, witchcraft, and sorcery to manipulate hostile spiritual powers to their advantage (Acts 19:11-20).



Ephesus Library



The Mediterranean region as Paul traveled to Ephesians for first time. From the NET BIBLE on Bible.org.

PURPOSE

Paul's letter to the Ephesian believers does not seem concerned with any particular heresies as we see in Galatians and Colossians, nor with any particular occurrences of immorality as 1 Corinthians. Rather, Paul's purposes are to declare the glory of God and the extravagant riches given to the Church. Paul focuses on the call, identity, and conduct of the Church, the body of Christ, throughout this rich epistle.

Outline the Book

Having read the background article on the book of Ephesians, now skim through Ephesians one more time and create your own title for each of the major sections below (you can divide these into smaller sections, each with its own title, if you wish). Do not use the titles in this packet or in your Bible. Create your own titles that capture your understanding of the main idea of each section.

My Ephesians Outline...

➤ 1:1-14

➤ 4:1-16

➤ 1:15-23

➤ 4:17-32

➤ 2:1-10

➤ 5:1-14

➤ 2:11-22

➤ 5:15-33

➤ 3:1-13

➤ 6:1-9

➤ 3:14-21

➤ 6:10-24

Why does this matter?



Facing the likely prospect of impeachment in 1974, President Richard Nixon became the only U.S. President in history to resign from office. America had learned that our 37th President had been a willing participant in a campaign of deception to cover up a break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic Party at the Watergate hotel in a scandal that would become known as “Watergate.” Not only had the President lied, but also tapes of private White House conversations revealed that he swore and made anti-Semitic comments to his staff as well.

While public opinion turned strongly against him, it is important to notice a couple of things about this scandal. First, it followed years of faithful and effective service to the nation. In fact, history has proven that Nixon was a capable and even brilliant leader particularly in the realm of foreign policy. He greatly improved relations with communist China and the Soviet Union and brought an end to the Vietnam War. Second, Nixon’s “sins” in the Watergate scandal were not all that uncommon. Most Americans have lied to protect themselves, many curse in private company, and many nurse racial biases. And yet, the vast majority of Americans condemned his actions and supported his resignation.

Why? Why did he face such harsh opposition from an American public guilty of his same transgressions? Simple: because he was our President. There is no vocational calling in our nation higher than that of President. When we elect a person to this most prestigious position, we expect a great deal from them. We expect their conduct to be above reproach, to lead with confidence and wisdom, and even to represent America to the world. The high calling of President demands a high standard of conduct!

- Why is the calling of God on your life even higher than the calling of the President of the United States? Does your conduct reflect the high calling you have received?

- In your own opinion, what is the relationship between calling and conduct?

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.



Rejoice in Blessing

EPHESIANS 1:1-14



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Observational Questions

1. Underline or highlight the names of God you observe in this passage? This should include names of any individual members of the Trinity.

2. List all of the “spiritual blessings” you see in this passage given by God to believers.

3. What’s the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 1:1-2

- 1:3-12

- 1:13-14

- And for the whole thing - 1:1-14

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 1-3

.....
vv 4-7

.....
vv 8-10

.....
vv 11-14



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Refer back to your list of “spiritual blessings” mentioned in this passage. What role does each Person of the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) play in providing us these blessings?

2. What does “redemption” mean (see Romans 8:23; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:25; 11:35)? What did it cost and who paid the cost? What motivated this cost to be paid for us?

3. What does it mean to be “sealed with the Holy Spirit” (1:13)? What must a person do to receive this? How does this sealing relate to our inheritance and redemption?

4. What does Paul mean by “adoption as sons” (See Romans 8:15-17.)? How did it occur?

5. According to 1:4-6; 11-12; and Romans 8:23-30 ...
What does it mean to be "chosen" or "predestined" by God?

When did God predestine us?

Why did God predestine us? In other words, what is the purpose of His choice?

Why does any of this really matter? Is predestination just a big theological debate, or does it have a practical application to our lives?

6. Should we be looking for apostles like Paul to lead us today? Why or why not? To answer this question look up 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 12:28-30; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 2:19-22; and 3:1-7 and consider these questions:
What is the basic meaning of the title "apostle"?

What qualifications did an apostle need?

What were the responsibilities of an apostle?



APPLY: How does it work?

- God wants the truth of these spiritual blessings to affect our lives. How should these truths...
...affect your self-worth or opinion of yourself?

...benefit you when you go through hard times or commit sin?

- Spend a few minutes thanking God for these spiritual blessings.

Memorize

Ephesians 1:3 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Pray with Power

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 & 3:14-21



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?



Many of us learned some of life's most important lessons from a tall, yellow bird, a green grouch, and their cadre of colorful friends living on Sesame Street. In one such memorable lesson, the Cookie Monster (perhaps the greatest of all Sesame Street characters!) is granted three wishes by a powerful genie. What should he ask for? Cookies, of course! But first he needs something to hold all those cookies he plans to receive. No one wants to eat their cookies off the ground, after all! So for wish number one, he asks for a plate to hold his many cookies. With plate in hand, he moves to wish number two – time for cookies! Oh, but wait, a plate really isn't that large when you think about it – not nearly large enough for the plethora of cookies a Cookie Monster can eat. So for wish number two, he asks for a big box with plenty of room for his cookie stash. But now, with box in hand, Cookie Monster realizes that a box isn't big enough either. He wants enough cookies to last a lifetime. So without hesitation, he asks for a dump truck – surely that will hold enough cookies! And now, with a dump truck at the ready, he asks for enough cookies to fill it. "Sorry, no-can-do," replies the genie who then disappears having fulfilled his promise of granting three wishes. He leaves behind a dish, a box, a dump truck, and one sad, but hopefully wiser, Cookie Monster.

- Think about your current prayer life. What do you ask God for? Are you requesting the best, most important things or secondary things most of the time? How do you know what's best to ask Him for?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Observational Questions

1. List the specific things Paul prays for in 1:15-23 and 3:14-21.

2. List some of the similarities and differences you notice between Paul's prayers in 1:15-23 and 3:14-21.

3. What key words do you notice in this passage? These are words that are theologically significant or that set the theme or big idea for the passage.

My observations - 1:15-23

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your "Bible Study Cheat Sheet" for instructions.

vv 15-16

.....
vv 17-18

.....
vv 19-21

.....
vv 22-23

Observations continued

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

My observations - 3:14-21

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

wv 14-15

.....
wv 16-17

.....
wv 18-19

.....
wv 20-21



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Paul begins 1:15 by saying, "For this reason" What reason is he referring to?

2. What is the primary thing Paul asks for in this prayer? Why does he place such emphasis on this request?

3. What do we learn about each Person of the Trinity in these prayers? Consider the following ... To which of them should we pray? Why (See 1 Corinthians 15:22-28.)?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives?

Where is Jesus now, and what is He doing?

What is the significance of being "at the right hand" of God (See Acts 5:31; Hebrews 1:3-13.)?

4. Rewrite Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in 1:15-23 in your own words. What, specifically, does he ask God for? (Hint: Try to define the meaning of phrases like "a spirit of wisdom and of revelation" and "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.")

5. What effect can our prayers have on the lives of others or our own lives (See Luke 11:9-10; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; James 4:2; 5:14-18.)?

6. How does this passage relate to the previous passage? In other words, how does the content of Paul's prayer in 1:15-23 relate to the believer's blessings in 1:1-14?

7. How does Paul's long description of Christ in 1:21-23 relate to our practice of prayer?



APPLY: How does it work?

➤ Based on Paul's example of prayer, how would you like your own prayer life to change?

➤ Are you currently praying for fellow believers? If so, how do you keep track of what you pray for and how God responds to your prayers? If not, list five names of believers in your life, and pray for each of them each day this week.

Memorize

Ephesians 1:18-19a | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Stand in Grace

EPHESIANS 2:1-10



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?

Three years into this teaching position and Sandra's once indomitable optimism was beginning to wane. After graduating near the top of her class at Texas A&M, she had passed up coveted teaching offers at wealthy school districts to serve as a seventh grade math teacher in an impoverished school in one of the roughest parts of New Orleans. She had been motivated by a sense of great hope, hope that the education she offered could bring real improvement and restoration to a recently devastated city. She had heard the call to service from the President himself who said that education would be the "silver bullet" to fixing what ailed the nation.



Yet after two years the results were mixed at best. While she had connected with a few students, most remained distant and uninterested. Sadly, half the students from her first class of seventh graders had already dropped out of school. Worst of all, two of her favorite students from the previous year had been arrested during the summer for participating in a gang-related assault - just another senseless act of violence in a city plagued by it. All her hard work seemed to be having so little effect. Sure, some of the kids were learning at least a little bit about math, but their lives were, on average, just as broken as they were before they met Sandra. "How could that be?" she wondered. If education really was the solution our nation so needed, then why were her efforts having so little effect?

- What kind of improvement can education, economic development, environmental activism, or any other government program bring to the human race?
- What are the limitations of these programs?
- Why are we so quick to engage in social activism, but so slow to share the gospel?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Observational Questions

1. List all of Paul's descriptions of the former life of his audience (2:1-3). What used to be true of them?

2. What has God done for us according to verses 4-10? In particular, look for verbs that describe His actions towards us.

3. What key words do you notice in this passage? These are words that are theologically significant or that set the theme or big idea for the passage.

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 1-3

.....

vv 4-5

.....

vv 6-7

.....

vv 8-10

.....



2. Who is the prince of the power of the air (See 6:11-12.)? What power and authority does he have now (See 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 4:4; 5:19.)?

4. Based on your answers to the above questions, describe a person's condition without Christ. Do non-Christians realize their condition? Why or why not?

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6. Define the following key words in this passage:
“grace” (See Romans 5:15-17.)

“works” (See Romans 4:1-5 and Titus 3:5.)

“saved” (See 1 Timothy 1:15-16.)

“faith” (See Ephesians 1:13.)

7. God’s salvation of us is described with three main verbs in verses 4-6. For each one, define exactly what Paul means. See Romans 6:1-14 for help in defining these terms.

“made us alive together with Christ”

“raised us up with Him”

“seated us with Him” (See also 1:20.)

8. How does 2:10 relate to 2:8-9? In other words, how do good works relate to our salvation (See also Titus 2:11-14.)?



APPLY: How does it work?

- If you were to stand before God tonight and He was to ask you, “Why should I let you into heaven?” what would you say?
- How does God’s grace affect your daily life? How does it change the way you see yourself, the way you see others, and the way you act?

Memorize

Ephesians 2:8-9 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Invest in the Family

EPHESIANS 2:11-3:13



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?

For 100 days in 1994, the central African nation of Rwanda truly experienced “hell on earth.” In that short time, Rwandans of Hutu ethnicity executed approximately one million of their Tutsi countrymen, including men, women, and children. Those who were not shot to death were slaughtered with machetes or trapped in buildings, even churches, and burned alive. Thousands of Tutsi women were raped by Hutu soldiers in an attempt to eradicate the Tutsi race. In the aftermath, many Tutsi survivors armed themselves and retaliated against Hutus, even those who took no part in the genocide. More than a decade later, the emotional wounds remain raw for many who were affected by this tragedy. Even for many believers, forgiveness and reconciliation with members of the other race seems impossible. That’s where



Celestin Musekura steps in, a Rwandan pastor who lost five family members to the violence. Celestin’s mission is to help pastors and churches throughout Central Africa become places where people of all races forgive one another and grow to love one another. He believes that knowledge of the work of Christ as revealed in Scripture can tear down the walls of division between groups of people even after decades of violence and conflict. Celestin himself had an opportunity to practice what he preaches when, a year after the genocide, he met the individuals who had killed his loved ones and, with little hesitation, offered them forgiveness.

- Put yourself in Celestin’s shoes as he stood face-to-face with the men who murdered his family. What would you say? Would you be able to forgive them? Would you be able to actually love them? If they, too, were believers, would you be able to attend the same church and serve in ministry together?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Observational Questions

1. Make two lists. In the first, write down all of Paul’s descriptions of the Gentiles’ former status and condition before Christ. In the second, write down all of Paul’s descriptions of their new status and condition now that Christ has come.

2. What's the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 2:11-22

- 3:1-13

3. What key words do you notice in this passage? These are words that are theologically significant or that set the theme or big idea for the passage.

My observations - 2:11-22

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your "Bible Study Cheat Sheet" for instructions.

vv 11-13

.....
vv 14-16

.....
vv 17-19

.....
vv 20-22

Observations continued

Ephesians 3:1-13

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

My observations - 3:1-13

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 1-3

vv 4-7

vv 8-10

vv 11-13

BACKGROUND INFO: THE “BARRIER OF THE DIVIDING WALL”

Almost 1500 years before Jesus came God gave His chosen people, the Jews, a book of commandments through their leader, Moses, which we call the “Mosaic Law.” God meant for this Law to make the Jewish people an attractive light and an example of righteousness to the Gentile nations of the world so that Gentiles would be drawn to worship the One True God. But in the centuries before Jesus came, the Jews sabotaged God’s intention by creating their own tradition around the Law, adding such numerous and complex requirements that most people, even most Jews, couldn’t hope to obey it all. For the scholarly Jews who could keep this tradition (the “Pharisees” and “scribes”) this led to an attitude of superiority and racial pride. To the Gentiles, this tradition only drove them further from God and stirred up hatred towards the Jews. But then Jesus came and not only strongly rebuked the Pharisees for their oppressive tradition, but in His death fulfilled and abolished the Mosaic Law (Rom 10:4; Gal 3:13). With the Law now set aside, the basis for the Jews’ oppressive tradition was gone. Now both Jews and Gentiles can become followers of Christ on equal terms – the “dividing wall” has been broken down.



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage. For instructions, see page 77.

a)

b)

2. According to this passage, what changes resulted from Christ's work on the Cross?

3. What does Paul mean by saying that in the past Gentiles, non-Jews like most of us, lived without hope and without God? To find out, answer the questions below. Use the following passages to develop your answers: Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Numbers 15:14-16; 1 Kings 8:41-43; Psalms 147:19-20; Isaiah 56:6-7; Acts 14:16-17; 17:24-31; Romans 3:1-2; 9:3-5.

Did God care about Gentiles during OT times?

Could Gentiles have a relationship with God during OT times? If so, what did God require of them?

What exactly did Jews possess that Gentiles lacked?

4. Paul uses the analogy of a “body” in 2:19-22 to characterize this new community of Jews and Gentiles. What does this figurative language teach us about the church body?

5. Notice the word “therefore” in 2:11. This ties together this passage and the previous passage. How does 2:11-22 relate to 2:1-10? Trace Paul’s flow of thought through chapter 2.

6. According to Ephesians 3:3-6, what does Paul mean by the word “mystery”? What exactly was the mystery that has now been revealed?

7. According 3:8-12, why did God create the church? In other words, what role does the church play in God’s plan for human history?



APPLY: How does it work?

- Where do you see examples of inequality or discrimination in society today? What can believers do to heal these divisions?
- Do you approach your spiritual life and your relationship with God primarily as an individual pursuit or as something you do in community with other believers? Why?
- This week, what specific thing can you do to promote the unity of the church? Do you need to apologize to someone, forgive someone, encourage someone, serve someone, etc?

Memorize

Ephesians 2:19 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.



Walk in Unity

EPHESIANS 4:1-16



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." ⁹(Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) ¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Observational Questions

1. One of the most helpful things we can do to discover an author's meaning is to observe key connecting words that link one sentence or paragraph with another, such as therefore, but, as a result, so that, for, and however. Read through the passage again, and circle all the connecting words you see.

2. What key words do you notice in this passage? These are words that are theologically significant or that set the theme or big idea for the passage.

3. What's the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 4:1-6

- 4:7-16

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 1-6

.....
vv 7-10

.....
vv 11-13

.....
vv 14-16



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
a)

b)

2. What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling”? To answer this question, consider the following ...
What does Paul mean by the word “walk” in this context? Why does he use this verb?

Based on your study of chapters 1-3, what “calling” does Paul have in mind in this passage?

Why would this calling motivate us to obey Paul’s command to “walk... worthy?”

What does a worthy walk look like according to this passage and 4:17; 5:2, 8, 15?

3. According to this passage, along with Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11... Create your own definition of the term “spiritual gifts.”

What specific spiritual gifts are mentioned in the New Testament?

What was Christ's ultimate purpose in giving these gifts?

Should we expect to see all of these gifts in our church today? Why or why not?

4. Looking at verses 12-16, restate Paul's goal for the church body in your own words.

5. Why does Paul emphasize "love" so much as he discusses the nature and activity of God and the spiritual life of the believer in Ephesians (cf. 1:4, 15; 2:4; 3:17, 19; 4:2, 15-16; 5:2, 25-33; 6:23-24)?

6. How does "therefore" in 4:1 connect this passage to what came before it? (Hint: Look for significant differences between this passage and the three previous chapters.)

7. What is Paul talking about in verses 9-10?! How does this digression contribute to his argument in this passage?



APPLY: How does it work?

- We have received the highest of callings from God. Do you live “in a manner worthy of the calling” you have received? If not, what needs to change in your life?

- What are your spiritual gifts? In what ways are you using them to help others in the church grow? What else could you be doing to better utilize these gifts this year?

Memorize

Ephesians 4:1-2 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Don't Turn Back

EPHESIANS 4:17-32



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?



Annie was halfway through her two-week vacation in East Asia, and it was time to get some laundry done by the hotel service. The group of tourists she was traveling with were gathered around the front desk as Annie turned in her laundry bag. To her horror, the desk clerk began removing and holding up each piece of her laundry, including undergarments, diligently recording each one on a check-in sheet. “Oh man,” she thought, turning red with embarrassment, “I’m not in Kansas anymore!”

Annie’s not the first to experience culture shock or the disorientation felt when people must operate within a different and unknown cultural or social environment. Each culture possesses certain social norms and customs that distinguish what is appropriate and honoring from what is not. It is true for every culture and involves every facet of life from greeting to eating, and even to laughing.

- Has walking with Jesus Christ ever felt like culture shock even within your own culture? What social customs or values differ considerably between our culture and the lifestyle the Scriptures call us to follow?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 4:17-32

¹⁷So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²²that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. ²⁵Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. ²⁹Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Observational Questions

1. Create a list of all of Paul's commands in verses 25-32. What idea or thought connects most of these commands together?

2. As you did last week, read through the passage again, and circle all the connecting words you see. Also, list any key words you notice in the passage.

3. What's the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 4:17-19

- 4:20-24

- 4:25-32

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your "Bible Study Cheat Sheet" for instructions.

vv 17-20

.....
vv 21-24

.....
vv 25-28

.....
vv 29-32



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
a)

b)

2. What progression do you notice in Paul's description of how Gentiles walk (verses 17-19)? What is the significance of this progression?

3. What does it mean to be "renewed in the spirit of your mind" (See Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18.)?

4. What is the significance of "therefore" in verse 25? In other words, how do the truths of verses 22-24 relate to the relational commands of verses 25-32?

5. From the context, how could we grieve the Holy Spirit? Does this "grieving" last forever (Hint: Justify your answer from other verses in Ephesians)?

6. What should be a Christian's attitude toward anger (See also Proverbs 16:32 and James 1:19-20.)? What is the right way to deal with anger? What is the wrong way to deal with it?

7. Verses 22-23 present a significant interpretive challenge. In Greek, they can be translated either as commands ("lay aside the old self ... be renewed ... put on the new self") or as factual statements of past realities ("you have laid aside the old self ... you are being renewed ... you have put on the new self").

First off, why does this problem even matter? Is there any practical significance to our lives if Paul meant one instead of the other?

List the strengths of each view. Pay special attention to the surrounding context of Ephesians. Note also two similar passages to consider – Romans 6:6 and Colossians 3:9.

Which option do you think is best and why?

8. Based on your answer to the previous question, define the following terms and determine whether they refer to an individual person or to a group of people.

"old man/self" (See Romans 6:6-7; Colossians 3:5-9; and Galatians 2:20.)

"new man/self" (See Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 3:9-14; and 2 Corinthians 5:17.)



APPLY: How does it work?

- List two principles you learned from this week's passage. A principle is a truth or a command taught in the passage that applies to our lives today.

- Are there any relationships in your life that are currently strained or estranged due to past conflict, anger, or hurtful speech? What can you do to begin the process of reconciliation and healing?

Memorize

Ephesians 4:32 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Conform to Christ

EPHESIANS 5:1-14



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?



“Quit copying me! Mom ... he’s doing it again. Make him stop, please!” Steve looked up from his breakfast to find his kid brother Justin dressed in exactly the same clothes, eating the same cereal, reading the same sports page and listening to his iPod, just as Steve was doing. Their parents assured Steve that Justin was imitating his every move out of admiration and a desire to be like his older brother. After all, “Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery,” they said. Steve wasn’t so sure. Perhaps his pesky little brother just knew how to push his buttons!

Social psychology has long suggested that children learn through imitation. In 2007, the National Academy of Sciences reported that children actually over-imitate adults. In repeated experiments, groups of three-to-five year-old children consistently imitated both the necessary and irrelevant steps they saw adults performing in simple retrieval tasks. The study supported ongoing evidence that humans appear to be powerfully “hardwired” to learn by imitation.

- In what areas of your life have you discovered a tendency to imitate or be influenced by others?

- In what areas of life do you provide a good example for others to imitate?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 5:1-14

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ³But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴For this reason it says, “Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”

Observational Questions

1. As you did last week, read through the passage again, and circle all the connecting words you see. Also, list any key words you notice in the passage.

2. What specific attribute of God does Paul desire us to imitate?

3. What “deeds of darkness” does Paul mention in this passage?

4. What’s the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 5:1-2

- 5:3-5

- 5:6-14

- For the whole passage - 5:1-14

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 1-3

.....
vv 4-7

.....
vv 8-10

.....
vv 11-14



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
a)

b)

2. For each of the following sins, (1) provide a brief description of the sin, and (2) describe how it is contrary to Christ-like love...

immorality & impurity (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

greed (Colossians 3:5)

filthiness, silly talk, and coarse jesting (Ephesians 4:29)

3. What were the “empty words” (5:6) that might have been used to deceive the Ephesians?

4. How should we go about exposing the deeds of darkness (5:11)? Should we be pointing out the sins of our non-Christian friends?

5. How does this passage relate to 4:17-32? In other words, what is the significance of “therefore” in 5:1?

6. For all of us who have ever given in to immorality or covetousness, 5:5 can sound like a pretty terrifying threat! What does Paul mean in this verse? To find out, answer the following questions using context plus these cross-references: Romans 6:12-13; 7:21-25; 1 Corinthians 6:7-11; Galatians 5:16-21.

Who is this warning directed towards? How can you tell?

What is the inheritance that they may miss out on? Is the inheritance equivalent to eternal life, or is it something else?

Can a person who currently fits the description of v5 have eternal life?

7. Why does Paul include the quotation in 5:14? What point does it make?



APPLY: How does it work?

- List two principles you learned from this week's passage. A principle is a truth or a command taught in the passage that applies to our lives today.
- In what relationship(s) do you struggle the most to imitate Christ's love? How can you respond to this person differently this week in order to better imitate Christ?
- Take a few moments to expose any secret sins to the light - confess them to your Savior, Jesus Christ.

Memorize

Ephesians 5:1-2 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Submit to One Another

EPHESIANS 5:15-6:9



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?



No employee at the financial firm had ever risen as fast as Catherine from the ranks of entry-level analyst to Vice President. Senior management had been quick to notice and reward her rare combination of technical competence, rapport with customers and peers, and a knack for making wise and timely decisions under pressure. As young as she was, the board already looked to her as a potential CEO in years to come. No one at the company showed such promise as a future leader of the Fortune 500 company. So it was shocking to Catherine as she listened to the sermon to hear her pastor say that women were called to submission. She had become a believer only

a month before and began attending the church with a neighbor. She had not grown up in a Christian home and had never spent much time reading the Bible before this month. So she was caught completely off guard as her pastor led the congregation through Paul's instructions to women. In her world of fast-paced financial deals and stiff competition for senior positions, "submission" was practically a curse word! To submit was to lose, to give-up, to surrender ground. How could God expect her, one of the most talented leaders in the company's history, to practice submission towards others? How could God call her to submit to her husband when she had a far stronger gift for leadership and decision making than he did? How could God "ban" her from the highest levels of leadership in the church when she could accomplish so much as a leader?

- Why is submission viewed so negatively in our culture? What is it about submission that our culture rejects? Note, this is not just about submission of a wife to a husband, but the submission of any person to those in authority.



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 5:15-33

¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ: ²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ³²This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

My observations - 5:15-33

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 15-16

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vv 17-18

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vv 19-21

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vv 22-24

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vv 25-27

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vv 28-30

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vv 31-33

Observations continued

Ephesians 6:1-9

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁵Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁹And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Observational Questions

1. As you did last week, read the passage again, and circle all the connecting words you see. Also, write down any key words you notice in the passage.

2. Notice that Paul contrasts two different ways of life in verses 15-21 (what to do vs. what not to do). List all the characteristics he gives for each way of life.

3. What specific responsibilities does Paul give to each person or group in 5:22-6:9.

4. What's the big idea of each of the following sections of this passage:

- 5:15-21

- 6:1-4

- 5:22-33

- 6:5-9

My observations - 6:1-9

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your "Bible Study Cheat Sheet" for instructions.

vv 1-2

.....
vv 3-4

.....
vv 5-6

.....
vv 7-9



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
a)

b)

2. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”? (Hint: It must be comparable in some way to the contrasting idea of being “drunk with wine.”)
Are all believers filled with the Spirit all the time? How do you know?

What hinders us from being “filled with the Spirit” (See Galatians 5:16-26.)?

What are some specific examples of Spirit-filled behavior according to the context?

3. What does it mean to “be subject” to someone else (5:21)?

Can someone else make you submit, or is submission entirely voluntary?

In what relationships does God expect us to practice submission? (See 1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:22; Titus 2:5, 9; 3:1; James 4:6, 7; 1 Peter 2:13, 18; 5:5.)

What exactly does it mean for a wife to “submit” to her husband?

Why does God call wives to submit to their husbands? Is it because they are somehow inferior to their husbands? Is it based on societal problems in the past (i.e. women were usually not educated in the ancient world)? (See Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-24; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Corinthians 7:2-4; 11:3-12; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Philipians 2:5-8.)

4. According to the passage, how can a husband demonstrate Christ-like love for his wife?

How does a husband’s responsibility to love his wife fulfill the controlling idea of this paragraph “be subject to one another” (5:21)?

5. At what age are children no longer obligated to obey their parents (6:1)? At what age are they no longer obligated to “honor” their parents (6:2-3)? Are there any reasons for which a child should not obey or honor his/her parents (Matthew 8:21-22; 10:34-39; Acts 4:18-20)?

6. How does 5:15-6:9 relate to what came before it?

7. How do the commands about household relationships (5:22-6:9) relate to 5:15-21? (Hint: Notice that in the NASB text the verb in 5:22 is in italics. This indicates that the verb is omitted from the sentence in Greek and is, instead, implied from the previous verse.)



APPLY: How does it work?

- List two principles you learned from this week's passage. A principle is a truth or a command taught in the passage that applies to our lives today.
- In what situations or relationships have you been called upon to submit to someone else? Do you find it easy or hard to submit? Why? How can you better honor and serve in this situation or relationship this week?
- Look at the family roles/positions mentioned in 5:22-6:9 that relate to your current station in life. What steps will you take this week to "be filled the Spirit" in each of these roles?

Memorize

Ephesians 5:17-18 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Prepare for Battle

EPHESIANS 6:10-24



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Why does this matter?

Private Riley scanned the crowd as merchants loudly advertised their produce to passing shoppers. Despite the stifling heat, the bazaar teemed with life, a fact that would have surprised Riley early in his tour of duty. Not only should the heat be keeping these crowds indoors, but also the wreckage and ashes of a suicide bomb one week ago were still visible near the center of the market. Yet life had to go on for the citizens of Fallujah, Iraq. It was Riley's mission on this mid-summer day to prevent a repeat of last week's carnage. Unfortunately, such attacks had proven remarkably hard to prevent. The terrorists he was looking for were not only growing more cunning in their planning and more effective in their weaponry, but they enjoyed one great advantage that confounded Riley's best efforts: they looked and talked exactly like every other person in the market. Suicide bombers were usually recruited from among the native population. This made it incredibly difficult for Riley to identify potential threats in time to prevent another attack. And so, despite months of training and the mental hardness that came from past battles, Private Riley spent the eight hours of his shift on this hot summer day hoping and praying that it might pass without another attack.



- How would you feel if, like Private Riley, you faced the constant threat of imminent attack by an unknown assailant? What would your emotional state be like?

- In general, do you usually feel safe and secure as you go through the day, or are you generally looking out for threats or dangerous situations? Why?



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Ephesians 6:10-24

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREAST-PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. ²¹But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. ²²I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts. ²³Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

Observational Questions

1. Underline all of the weapons and armor that God has given us to use in spiritual warfare in the passage above.

2. As you did last week, read through the passage again, and circle all the connecting words you see. Also, list any key words you notice in the passage.

3. What do you observe about Paul’s call to prayer in 6:18-20?

4. Come up with a creative title for this passage.

My observations

List at least 1 observation per verse. See your “Bible Study Cheat Sheet” for instructions.

vv 10-13

.....

vv 14-17

.....

vv 18-20

.....

vv 21-24

.....



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

1. Create and answer any two of your own interpretive questions from this passage:
a)

b)

2. Where else have we seen the ideas of God's strength or power in Ephesians? To what did that strength refer? How do we take advantage of that strength?

3. Who are our enemies (See 2:2; 1 John 5:19; 1 Peter 5:8.)? What specific tactics do they use (See Genesis 3:1-5; Job 1:9-12; Luke 4:1-13; John 8:44; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8-9.)?

4. What/when is the "evil day" (6:13)?

5. List each piece of spiritual armor. What does each mean? Be specific (e.g. what is “truth,” and what is the significance of the imagery “having girded your loins with the truth”?). How does each piece of armor contribute to our ability to stand strong in the midst of spiritual warfare? Finally, explain how each piece is received and used (e.g. explain what the “breastplate of righteousness” is, how it helps us stand strong, and how we put it on).

6. Why does Paul’s call to prayer follow his discussion of our spiritual battle and armor? How does prayer relate to this battle?



APPLY: How does it work?

- List two principles you learned from this week's passage. A principle is a truth or a command taught in the passage that applies to our lives today.
- Most of us have never fought in a war, so we don't know what it is like to have our physical lives constantly at risk. However, as we've learned from Ephesians 6, moment by moment our spiritual lives are indeed at risk.

How aware are you of spiritual opposition in your life? Does it paralyze you or do you rarely consider it?

How can we maintain spiritual vigilance at all times?

In what ways can your prayer life become more effective in this spiritual battle?

Memorize

Ephesians 6:11 | Write it out to get your memorization started.

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

Put it Back Together

EPHESIANS SYNTHESIS



Pray

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

Memorize

Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons.

- 1:3
- 1:18-19a
- 2:8-9
- 2:19
- 4:1-2
- 4:32
- 5:1-2
- 5:17-18
- 6:11

Why does this matter?

In the case study of lesson one (page 8), we looked at the ignoble resignation of President Richard Nixon whose conduct had failed to live up to the high calling he received when elected to the office of President. These same themes of calling and conduct have dominated the book of Ephesians. Having studied the book of Ephesians in detail, answer the following questions ...

- With the book of Ephesians as a whole in mind, what does it mean that God “called” us? What did He call us out of? What privileges and blessings are included in His call?
- According to Ephesians, what standards of conduct does God expect of us? In other words, how does He expect those whom He has called to act in this world?

SYNTHESIS: How does it all fit together?

SKILL

The previous lessons have led us to observe, to interpret, and to apply the entire book of Ephesians. That is no small task! Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as **synthesis**. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of Ephesians that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

But first, please realize how much we have developed as students of the Word during this study! Though you have focused on Ephesians, you have actually learned and practiced a method of Bible study that will help you understand and apply to your life any passage of Scripture! Observe, interpret, and apply. These are the three fundamental steps of all Bible study and they will serve you well for a lifetime. As we draw Ephesians to a close, please continue to practice and refine these skills so that you will be, “a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).



Outline the Book

The first step of this synthesis is to **CREATE YOUR OWN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**. Review the work you completed each week. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start.

1. Greetings from Paul to the church in Ephesus (1:1-2)
2. Praise for God's blessings to the church (1:3-14)
 - a. Predestined adoption by the Father (1:3-6)
 - b. Gracious redemption by the Son (1:7-12)
 - c. Sealed inheritance through the Spirit (1:13-14)

My Ephesians Outline

Use this template or create your own.

1) Chapters 1-3 - Our Calling

a) 1:1-2 -

b) 1:3-14 -

c) 1:15-23 -

d) 2:1-10 -

e) 2:11-22 -

f) 3:1-13 -

g) 3:14-21 -

2) Chapters 4-6 - Our Conduct

a) 4:1-16 -

b) 4:17-32 -

c) 5:1-14 -

d) 5:15-21 -

e) 5:22-33 -

f) 6:1-9 -

g) 6:10-21 -

h) 6:22-24 -

SYNTHESIS: How does it all fit together?

SKILL

The second step of this synthesis is to **RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED OR WERE REMINDED OF**. This is more personal than your outline. Create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you have either learned for the first time or been reminded of from your study of Ephesians. As an example of a theological truth, you might write:

I was taught that the Holy Spirit is a pledge or guarantee of our eternal inheritance to come in the future (1:13-14).

An example of a life lesson would be:

This book reminded me that spiritual growth is a community project pursued not just individually but also corporately.

List at least three theological truths and three life lessons on this page that you learned from your study of Ephesians, and record the verses where each is addressed.

Theological Truths I've Learned

Life Lessons I've Learned

SYNTHESIS: How does it all fit together?

The final step of this synthesis is to **PRAYERFULLY CHOOSE TWO APPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE**. These can be applications that you developed and began to practice during previous lessons, or you can create entirely new applications. Whatever your choice, two things must be true about them:

1. Both applications should touch on **areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth**. Do not choose “*be kind to others*” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both should **be specific** with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. So, “*study the Word more*” is not sufficiently detailed. Instead, develop a specific plan such as “*I will read through Romans this next month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal - Steve will hold me accountable weekly.*”

Application #1

Principle from Ephesians:

Verses where it is discussed:

Plan of Action: I will...

Application #2

Principle from Ephesians:

Verses where it is discussed:

Plan of Action: I will...

Pray

End your study by returning to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the principle you have chosen, and lay before Him the needs of your fellow small group members.

my notes



Appendix

1. Bible Study Methods Quick Reference Guide - p76
2. Principles of Interpretation- p81
3. Creating Lists - p82
4. Discipleship Resources - p83



OBSERVE: What do I see?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “**What do I see?**” This is the crucial skill of **observation**, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

Observation Task 1: **Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:**

- **Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action takes place (“He came ... to you”) or that a state or condition exists (“you ... have been brought near”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.
- **Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “grace” in 2:8) or thematically set the theme or main idea of the passage (like “made us alive” in 2:5).
- **Highlight repeated words or phrases.** Include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “trespasses” and “sins”). You’ll want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “riches” found in 1:7, 18).
- **Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
 1. **COMPARISON:** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: **and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so** (e.g. “humility **AND** gentleness” 4:2).
 2. **CONTRAST:** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: **but, rather, yet, however** (e.g. “one God and Father of all ... **BUT** to each one of us” 4:6-7).
 3. **PURPOSE:** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: **that, so that, in order that** (e.g. “I pray ... **SO THAT** you will know what is the hope of His calling” 1:18).
 4. **RESULT:** very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: **that, so that, as a result, with the result that** (e.g. “Christ ... gave Himself up for her **SO THAT** He might sanctify her” 5:25-26).
 5. **CAUSE:** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: **because, since,** and sometimes **for** (e.g. “excluded from the life of God **BECAUSE** of the ignorance that is in them” 4:18).
 6. **EXPLANATION:** what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, or why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word **for** (e.g. “**FOR** we are His workmanship” 2:10).

7. **INFERENCE:** provides a logical consequence, a conclusion, or a summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: **therefore, for this reason** (e.g. “THEREFORE be imitators of God” 5:1).
8. **CONDITION:** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e. it could be hypothetical). Key word is **if** (e.g. “IF indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him” 4:21).

Observation Task 2: **List 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week.**

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth or command that the passage focuses on, such as “grace” in 2:1-10. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

Observation Task 3: **Write two or more observations per verse.**

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

Observation Task 4: **Record your own interpretive questions.**

Here are a few examples:

WHO is...

...Paul talking about?
...accomplishing the action?
...benefiting from the action?

WHAT is the...

...meaning of this word?
...significance of this phrase?
...implication of this statement?
...relationship between these phrases?

WHY did Paul...

...choose this word?
...include this phrase, statement, or command?
...connect these ideas?
...not say _____?

HOW...

...was this action accomplished?
...will this situation occur?



INTERPRET: What does it mean?

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study, **interpretation**. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three “Principles of Interpretation” that appear in the Appendix on page 81.

Interpretation Method 1: **Use the context.**

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow Paul’s flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in Ephesians for clues.

Interpretation Method 2: **Compare multiple translations.**

This packet uses the New American Standard (**NASB**) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (**NKJV**), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (**NIV**) and the New Revised Standard Version (**NRSV**) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and are thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (**NET**) available online for free at www.bible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.net.

Interpretation Method 3: **Look up key words.**

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto www.biblestudytools.net, and as an example, type in “Ephesians 2” in the “search for:” box, set the “using:” box to “NAS with Strong’s Numbers” and click “Find.” All of Ephesians 2 will appear on the screen with most of the words highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will explain the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title “NAS Verse Count”) and get a display of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. To refine your understanding of Paul’s use of a word, look at some of his uses in his other books, such as Romans or Philippians.

Interpretation Method 4: **Study cross-references (Xrefs).**

XRefs are simply other passages in the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as we seek to understand our passage. You can find a few XRefs in the margins of most Bibles, but you can find many more by logging onto another helpful website: net.bible.org. In the top left of the screen under “Display Bible,” choose “Ephesians,” then the chapter you are interested in, and then click “Go.” A new screen will appear with the NET Bible translation of the chapter you requested. Click the “XRef” tab at the top of the screen, and this will take you to an extensive list of XRefs for every verse in this chapter based on the classic book *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. Clicking any of these will bring up the single verse, but you can then click “context” to see the verse in the midst of its surrounding context.

Interpretation Method 5: **Look up background information.**

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall, but you can also find the older *Int'l Standard Bible Dictionary [ISBE]* online for free (net.bible.org/dictionary.php). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is an excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

Interpretation Method 6: **Tackle tough questions step-by-step.**

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four step process: **(1) LIST ALL THE OPTIONS.** Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question. **(2) LIST PROS AND CONS FOR EACH OPTION.** See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology. **(3) CHOOSE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION.** Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option. **(4) DECIDE ON YOUR CERTAINTY LEVEL.** Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct... 60% = this solution is just a bit more likely than the others!) Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.



APPLY: How does it work?

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just **know** His Word, but also **obeys** His Word that truly loves Him (See John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

Application Task 1: **List potential principles from your passage.**

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g. "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). An example from Ephesians 1 would be, "God's blessings in our life should lead us to praise Him." It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?*
- *Is there any relationship I need to work on?*

Application Task 2: **Choose one principle, and create a plan to apply it to your life this week.**

Once you complete your principle list, *prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on* (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

- *What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life (Be specific)?*
- *Whom, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?*

1) Principles of Interpretation

Principle #1 - Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience. Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning; and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps.

1. Always **start your study with prayer**, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Be very careful to **avoid reading your 21st century circumstances and theological issues** into the text as they will skew your understanding.
3. Work diligently to see the text **from the point of view of the original readers**. To do this: [a] dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and [b] spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking - What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? about Jesus? about salvation? etc.

Principle #2 - Assume a "normal" use of language. The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for "hidden" meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the "normal" techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. **Study the grammar.** Yes, most of us hated grammar in junior high, but it really is helpful for understanding Scripture! So pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
2. **Remember that chapters came later.** When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. So always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

Principle #3 - Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Since God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. **Check your conclusions.** Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of Scripture as a whole. If you find that your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. **Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages.** Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of Scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution - remember that God revealed Scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of Scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the NT era, we must believe in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

2) Bonus Skill: Creating Lists

This skill involves identifying a key word, subject, person, place, or event in the passage and then listing every fact given about that word. For example, if you made a list of the “God” from 2 Timothy 1, it might look like this:

God...

1. made Paul an apostle by His will (v1)
2. gives grace, mercy and peace (v2)
3. is the Father (v2)
4. is thanked and served (v3)
5. gives gifts (v6)
6. doesn’t give spirit of timidity (v7)
7. gives spirit of power, love, and sound mind (v7)
8. gives power for suffering (v9)
9. saved us (v9)
10. called us (v9)

As you read this list, what jumps out at you? Perhaps you see that “God gives” is mentioned five times in this list. What a gracious and loving God we serve! You have discovered one of the characteristics of God: His generous grace toward men. By creating these lists, you will begin to see patterns of truth that you will want to study further. For example, this list on God may lead you to do a word study on “give” or find all the other references in Paul’s epistles to God’s giving nature. Furthermore, this list can now be used for meditation, to praise and worship God, to encourage others, and to proclaim the character of God to the lost.

One word of caution about lists, however. Just because you are able to create a list centered on a key word, such as “God” in 2 Timothy 1, does not mean that Paul’s main point in the passage is to talk about that key word. Paul’s emphasis in 2 Timothy 1, in fact, is not to discuss attributes about God; it is to encourage Timothy to press on in the ministry of the gospel. So make sure that before you create any lists you complete the initial processes of observation: list themes, mark up the text, and record your most significant observations. However, after these initial tasks, creating lists is a great way to deepen your study of a passage!

3) Discipleship Resources

One of the predominant themes throughout the book of Ephesians is the relationship between our high calling and our high conduct. It is important that we know the truth of the Bible and that our lives would more and more begin to reflect Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth clearly involves study of God's word, but it also involves transformation of our character and life. This process is often called "discipleship" and refers to an intentional relationship between a mature believer and a younger believer where the former trains the latter towards the goal of spiritual maturity. Paul's discipleship of Timothy (and Titus as well) is one the greatest examples we have of this process in all of Scripture. And like Paul, we too can make a lasting impact for God's kingdom by spiritually reproducing ourselves in the lives of others.

Going through this Bible study was one of the best steps you could take to prepare you to disciple someone else because now you know how to explain and defend key biblical truths like the gospel, spiritual leadership, grace, and salvation. Just as important, you have now learned and practiced the basic method of Bible study - survey, observe, interpret, apply, synthesize. These are key steps towards spiritual maturity that you can now pass on to others!

But where can you go from here to learn more about spiritual multiplication? Here are a few helpful resources:

➤ ***The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman**

This is a highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

➤ ***The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims**

This very practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

➤ ***A Survey of Bible Doctrine* by Charles Ryrie**

This is not a book about discipleship. It is, instead, an easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

➤ ***Essentials of the Faith* by Grace Bible Church, CS TX**

This small group Bible study packet walks a new believer through the fundamental truths and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.

High Calling ... High Conduct

The calling and conduct of the church
dominate the book of Ephesians.

Throughout this rich book,
we will learn about the church's
inherited stewardship, multi-ethnic
identity, distinct lifestyle,
and spiritual opposition.



The Apostle Paul:

Named Saul at birth, Paul was a devout Jew and foremost persecutor of the early church until an encounter with the risen Jesus altered his life forever. After becoming a follower of Jesus, he was divinely appointed as God's Apostle to the Gentiles. In this role, he planted numerous churches throughout the Roman empire, carried the gospel as far as Spain, and wrote thirteen enduring letters of our New Testament.