

9 studies from

# Ephesians

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A New Community



# Contents

Study 1: A Blessed Community	Ephesians 1:1-14
Study 2: A Faithful Community	Ephesians 1:15-23
Study 3: A Grace-filled Community	Ephesians 2:1-10
Study 4: A New Community	Ephesians 2:11-22
Study 5: A Missional Community	Ephesians 3:1-21
Study 6: A Unified Community	Ephesians 4:1-16
Study 7: A Holy Community	Ephesians 4:17-5:21
Study 8: A Submissive Community	Ephesians 5:21-33
Study 9: A Fearless Community	Ephesians 6:1-24



## LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 1:1-2

1. Who wrote the letter to the church in Ephesus?
2. What do we know about Ephesus from the Bible? (Acts 18:18-20; 19:1-20:1; 20:17-38)
3. How does Paul describe his recipients?

| What does being rich mean to you? |

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

4. Why does Paul give praise to God?
5. What blessings are listed in these verses? (Hint: Look for the verses that refer to *in Christ*)
6. What is God's great purpose according to chapter 1v10? (cf. Genesis 12:1-3)
7. How does God accomplish this purpose? (cf. Acts 2)

## THINK ABOUT THE WORD

8. What can you do to obtain the blessings that are in Christ Jesus?
9. What blessings listed are you aware of in your life?
10. How will God use you to bring about his purpose?
11. Why should we remind ourselves of these blessings?

## PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Give praise to God for every blessing that is yours in Christ Jesus.

Confess the areas in your life where you have taken God's blessings for granted.

Ask the Lord to reveal his gospel truth and blessings to someone you know who is still rejecting him.

| What does prayer mean to you? |

### LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 1: 15-23

1. Since when did Paul pray for the Ephesian church?
2. What is the relationship between faith and love?
3. What does Paul pray for and why?
4. Why is it important for the Christian to understand God's great power?

### THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. What changes can you make to get to know God better?
6. Which categories take priority in your prayer life?
7. How does your prayers equate to that of Paul?
8. Do you think God is powerful enough to answer your prayers? Why or why not?

### PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Confess to the Lord times where you failed to love as you ought to.

List the names of people where you have seen God at work in their lives and give thanks.

Ask the Lord to remind you of the great hope and power you share in.

| What has been the most significant change in your life? |

### LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What two rulers do Paul refer to in this passage?
2. How does Paul describe the Ephesians in both their former and present state?
3. When and how did the change come about?
4. What is God's purpose in bringing about this change?

### THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. Which ruler are you submitting to in your life?
6. What do you boast about most as a Christian?
7. How would you describe the good works God has set out for you?
8. Why is it important to daily draw on God's grace?

### PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Give thanks that you are made alive in and through Christ.

List someone you know who are still living under Satan's rule and ask God to use you to bring about gospel change in their life.

Ask God to reveal to you in which ways to serve him best within your church community.

| What do you think is the solution to division caused by discrimination? |

### LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

1. How does Paul describe the Ephesians in verses 11-12, and did anything change?
2. What is Christ's purpose in this passage and how does he bring it about (vs14-18)? cf. Isaiah 6:9
3. What assurances do Paul give to this new community in Ephesus (vs19-22)?
4. In one sentence, summarize what Paul's solution is to discrimination?

### THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. Where do you see "walls of hostility" in the world and in your own community?
6. How do we approach cultural differences within the church?
7. What attempts does the world offer for peace? How is this different to the peace that the gospel offers?
8. Why is it important to remind ourselves regularly about these truths?

### PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Thank the Lord for bringing you into his community of peace.

Ask the Lord to reveal to you the discriminations of your own heart and repent of that.

Pray for opportunities and boldness to proclaim the message of peace to a divided world.

| What is your greatest goal in life? |

## LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

1. What mystery is Paul referring to?
2. How does Paul describe his ministry?
3. What was God's purpose through Paul's ministry?
4. Why can the church approach God with freedom and confidence?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

5. What does Paul pray for and why?
6. Why is Paul so confident when he prays?

## THINK ABOUT THE WORD

7. What is our mission as a church?
8. How will we be able to accomplish our mission?
9. Why do many Christians find it hard to pray?
10. Where have you seen God powerfully at work at church and in your life?

## PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Praise the Lord for his immense power that is at work in and through his church.

Ask the Lord for wisdom to declare his greatness to those around you.

Pray that the Lord will continue to grow you in your love and understanding of him.

Which one of the following would you say is the best for the church and why? Discuss

- Uniformity
- Unity

### LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. What does Paul urge the Ephesians to do and what does this look like?
2. Why do you think Paul refers to the Trinity in verses 3-5?
3. Why do you think Paul lists only specific gifts in this passage? What do they have in common and what is their aim?
4. What is God's purpose for his church in this passage?

### THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. How do you approach people in church who are different to you?
6. How can we as a church ensure that we grow to maturity?
7. What gift(s) has God given you to live out your ministry calling?
8. Why is it important that we speak the truth in love to one another?

### PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Ask the Lord to give you a heart attitude of humility and love towards others.

Thank the Lord for the gifts he has given you and those in your church community.

Pray that as a Growth Group and church you will recognise each other's differences and seek to establish and maintain the unity God calls us to.

Why is it important for the Christian to live a life that is remarkably different to that of the world?

## LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 4:17-5:21

1. What does Paul insist on and why? cf. 1 John 1:5-2:17
2. List everything the Christian has to put off and put on. Why is this significant?
3. According to Paul, what does it mean to live a life of love (5:2)?
4. How does the resurrection affect the way we live for God?

## THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. If a Christian knows God forgives all their sins, is it okay to go on sinning? Give a reason for your answer. cf. Romans 6:1-14
6. God calls us to be holy just as he is holy (Leviticus 11:44f; 1 Peter 1:16). How does today's passage challenge and encourage you to be an imitator of God?
7. Where have you seen the darkness of this world dispelled by the light of the gospel?
8. Why is authentic worship so important for the church community?

## PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Praise God for his holiness and power.

Acknowledge the areas in your life where you are still struggling with sin and seek the Lord's forgiveness.

Ask the Lord to shine his light in and through you in a powerful way.

How would you describe the church from what we have learned so far in Ephesians?

### LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Why do you think Paul refers to marriage in this passage?
2. According to Paul, what is a biblical understanding of ...  
... submission?  
... love?
3. How should the church respond to Christ?
4. What did Christ do for his church and what was his purpose for doing so?

### THINK ABOUT THE WORD

5. Why do you think we are globally seeing an increased rate of divorce and fewer marriages?
6. How would correctly responding to Christ as our head and saviour look like in practice?
7. What are your thoughts/feelings as you await the day when Christ will return to come and fetch his bride (ie. the church)?
8. What does it practically mean for you to be one with Christ?

### PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Give thanks that the Lord has given up his life for you and for your union with him.  
Ask the Lord to safeguard Christian marriages throughout his church.  
Pray for wisdom to correctly understand and live out a life of submission and love.

| What are your thoughts about warfare? |

## LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Ephesians 5:22-6:9

1. What do we learn about the various relationships within the church community?
2. Why is obedience within the respective relationships so important to Paul?

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

3. Who or what is our struggle against as a church?
4. What comfort does the church have amidst this struggle? (cf. Ephesians 1:19-21, 3:16-18, 20)
5. What does Paul call the church to do in light of this spiritual battle?
6. Why is prayer a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare?

## THINK ABOUT THE WORD

7. How apathetic do you think the church is towards the spiritual realm and why?
8. Do you think it is possible to worship the devil without knowing it? cf. Ephesians 2:1-2
9. What causes you to doubt the power of God? cf. What fears do you have?
10. How firmly are you standing against the devil at this point in life?

## PRAY THROUGH THE WORD

Praise the Lord that he is more powerful than the devil and that there is no reason to be fearful.

Ask that the Lord will make you aware of any weak spots in your spiritual armour and give insight to make repairs where needed.

Ask the Lord to give you a renewed understanding that you are not alone in the spiritual battle.