

Ephesians

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

THE CHURCH: ROOTED IN
LOVE, WALKING IN POWER

Ephesians Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2006 2011, 2013 Precept Ministries International

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in Canada

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

4th Edition (5/2013)

THE PURPOSE OF LEADER GUIDES

Leader guides are intended for you, the leader, to help plan your discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the theology of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from completing their homework. Leader Guides are not designed to do the homework for you! Please refer to them after you have completed your assignment as a student.

These guides can assist you in preparing the lesson plans to use for leading the discussions. This is not the only way to lead your discussion of the Scriptures, but it is one way you could approach the material in the lesson.

The Holy Spirit must be your guide as you plan to lead these discussions. He is the one who knows what your group needs. Be in prayer for them as they study and for yourself as you plan to lead the discussions.

Keep in mind learning is enhanced when your group is encouraged to verbalize what they've learned. Asking questions will help them to reason through the Scriptures they have studied. Ask the "5 Ws and an H" kinds of questions (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How). Asking these kinds of questions requires more than a yes or no answer.

Visual aids can be a tremendous asset in helping your group to reason through the Scriptures. These discussion guides will give you some ideas for visual aids, but please feel free to adapt, change, or even replace these with your own ideas.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV Precept Upon Precept courses. The ESV follows the NASB with a slash / or is set off with parentheses.

EPHESIANS LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Overview of Ephesians
- Historical background

You could begin by asking your group if anything in Ephesians spoke to them, any application they might want to share briefly.

Continue to ask application questions at appropriate points throughout the discussion.

ACTS 19:1-20:2

After a brief sharing time, you could ask them what they learned from the events of Acts 19–20:2. Understanding the setting of Ephesus when Paul wrote will help them better comprehend Paul's message.

Ephesus had one of the seven wonders of the ancient world there, the temple of Artemis (Diana) the goddess of fertility. Ephesus was a major city in Asia, now modern Turkey, and a major seaport with much traffic coming and going—many coming to the temple of Artemis.

Many local merchants made their living from items related to worship of Artemis—silversmiths and craftsmen making idols and shrines, etc.

Ephesus was a city of magic and evil spirits.

You might ask your group if any of them have ever been to or lived in a place like that.

Ask for the chronology of the main events.

NOTE: Don't let verses 1-7 regarding the twelve men sidetrack your discussion. Focus on what is relevant to studying Ephesians. The main point is that Paul went to Ephesus.

There is a contrast between the Holy Spirit and the evil spirits of verses 8-20.

Paul took the gospel to Ephesus and upset their idolatry.

He began at the synagogue with the Jews, but when some of them became hardened, he went to a Gentile school to teach. He was there for over 2 years teaching God's Word so that all in Asia heard it.

When the people of Ephesus believed, their lives changed so that those who had formerly practiced magic burned their books.

Because of Paul's message and the change in believers' lives, Demetrius caused a disturbance among the people. The truth hurt his business and went against his personal idol worship.

Paul left for Macedonia and then Greece. But the Ephesians' lives had changed because of the time he'd spent there.

EPHESIANS

Use the Author and Recipients chart in the lesson as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

How does Ephesians begin?

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will

To the saints who are at Ephesus
Faithful in Christ Jesus

Ask your group what they learned from Ephesians about Paul and the Ephesian saints.

Paul had heard that they were faithful, 1:1 and 15.

He prayed for them.

He was a prisoner, 3:1; 4:1; and 6:20, probably in Rome.

At this point, you could let them share briefly about what they learned from Acts 28:11-31. Then continue with what they learned about Paul in Ephesians.

NOTE: This was approximately ten years after Acts 19, Paul's two years in Ephesus.

3:1-10 gives the most information about Paul in Ephesians.

He had written before.

The mystery had been revealed to him.

He wanted them to understand what he understood about the mystery.

He wanted them to know that Gentiles were fellow heirs and members of the body of Christ, the church.

He preached the riches of Christ to the Gentiles and brought to light the administration of the hidden mystery.

So he wanted the Gentile believers at Ephesus to know that they were part of the body of Christ, the church. He wanted them to understand the mystery, Jew and Gentile in one body.

What does Ephesians say about the faithful saints who lived there?

1:13 Believed the gospel and were sealed with the Holy Spirit

2:1-2 Formerly lived under the influence of the prince of the power of the air

2:11 Gentiles

2:12 Formerly separate from Christ

2:16 One body with Jewish believers

4:17 Were not to walk (live) the way they used to live

Ephesians 1

At this point, you can ask about the content of each chapter and segment in this letter. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Verses 3-14 Blessings and riches “in Him”

Verses 15-23 Paul told of his prayer for the saints at Ephesus.

You might ask what they noted on their At A Glance charts as a chapter theme for Ephesians 1.

It could be as simple as something like:

Blessings and riches in Him/ Prayer

Ephesians 2

What is this chapter about?

Gentile believers are saved by grace and are in the body.

Two in one new body, Jew and Gentile in the church.

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At A Glance chart.

Gentiles in the body by grace

Ephesians 3

What are the main points in this chapter?

Verses 1-13 Paul explained the mystery.

Verses 14-21 He tells them of another prayer he prayed for them.

Ask for the chapter theme.

Paul revealed the mystery / Prayer

Ephesians 4

How does the emphasis change?

This chapter begins the segment on how the Ephesian saints were to walk—live.
Because of the spiritual truths in chapters 1-3

Therefore . . . walk in a manner worthy of your calling

They were to walk no longer as Gentiles.
That is the theme of this chapter.

Ephesians 5

What are the sections and main points in this chapter?

Verses 1-21 Walk in love, light, as wise men

Verses 22-33 Husbands and wives
The mystery, Christ and the church

Ask for a chapter theme.

Walk in love, light, wisdom/ Husbands and wives

Ephesians 6

What does this chapter teach about how believers are to live?

Verses 1-9 Children, fathers, slaves, masters

Verses 10-17 Armor of God

Verses 18-20 Paul tells the Ephesians to pray, and to pray for him.

Verses 21-24 Paul's circumstances and closing remarks

Chapter theme?

Stand firm, Put on God's armor, Pray
You can if anyone identified segment divisions in Ephesians.

The main division is between Ephesians 3 and 4.

1-3 Riches and grace for Gentiles
4-6 Walk worthy

Some commentators word it as—
Who they are
How to walk

Some in your group might have noticed more divisions, such as—

1-2 Gentiles saved by grace
3 Paul revealed the mystery
4-5:21 Walk no longer as Gentiles
5:22-6:9 Families
6:10-20 Armor
6:21-24 Closing

You might end this discussion by asking what they hope to learn from this study of Ephesians now that they know the basics of its content.

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis

- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Chosen by God—Jews and Gentiles

Review

You can begin this discussion by asking how Paul introduced his letter to the Ephesian believers in 1:1-2. Ask for a short review of who Paul was and who those believers were.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, revealed the mystery of Christ to the Gentile believers. He told them about Jew and Gentile in one body. He probably wrote this letter to the Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome.

The Ephesians were faithful believers, Gentiles in the flesh. Their lives changed when they were saved, Acts 19.

Ask your group to look at their At a Glance charts and briefly review the main points of the chapters in Ephesians.

Chapter 1	Blessings and riches in Him/ Prayer
Chapter 2	Gentiles in the body by grace
Chapter 3	Paul revealed the mystery / Prayer
Chapter 4	Walk no longer as Gentiles
Chapter 5	Walk in love, light, wisdom/ Husbands and wives
Chapter 6	Stand firm, Put on God's armor, Pray

EPHESIANS 1

Verses 1-2

What are these verses? Discuss what your group learned about grace.

Although Paul's introduction was a common one he used in several letters he wrote to churches, grace and peace are important key ideas he expressed to the Ephesian believers. One definition of "grace" is undeserved favor¹, meaning God's favor.

Verse 6, glory of His grace freely bestowed / blessed
Verses 7-8, riches of His grace lavished on men

¹ Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 434.

2 Timothy 1:9

He saved and called us according to His own purpose and grace.

Ephesians 1–3 tells of God’s grace toward believers.

Verses 3-14

After Paul’s introduction in verses 1-2, what does he do in verse 3?

Paul begins by blessing God the Father.

Why?

He blessed all believers with every spiritual blessing
In Christ
In the heavenly places

These blessings are part of His grace.

What are those blessings? Discuss word studies, cross-references and application.

Chosen

Chosen (picked out, selected²)

- by God
 - in Christ
 - before the foundation of the world
 - to be holy and blameless before Him
- This is the end result of being chosen.

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter wrote that believers are chosen (ESV—elect)

- according to God’s foreknowledge
- by the Spirit’s sanctifying work
- to obey Jesus and be sprinkled with His blood (salvation)

John 15:16

Jesus said that He chose and appointed (the disciples, believers) to go and bear fruit. He spoke of an intimate relationship with the Father.

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

It is God’s doing that believers are “in Christ Jesus.” It’s not something man can boast about. Three times this passage says that God chose.

²W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:100.

You can begin a simple time line. Add to it as you proceed through the discussion. See the last page of this guide for an example.

What is the next blessing?

Predestined

This word might also cause initial confusion or debate.

The word means decided beforehand³ or determined beforehand.⁴

Predestined

- in love
- to adoption as sons (ESV does not have “as sons.”)
- through Jesus Christ
- according to God’s kind intention, His purpose
- to the praise of the glory of His grace

God’s predetermining that we would be adopted as His children is ultimately to result in praise of the glory of His grace.

Our lives as children of God should cause others to see His glory—Who He is—and His grace. It should cause them and us to praise Him even as Paul was doing in these verses.

Acts 2:22-23

The cross was also God’s “predetermined / definite” plan and according to His foreknowledge.

Romans 8:28-30

Those called, foreknown, justified, and glorified were predestined to be conformed into Jesus’ image.

God predetermined that His chosen would be like Jesus.

This is part of God’s grace freely bestowed in the Beloved Christ Jesus.
It’s part of salvation.

Be sure to give time for your group to discuss personal application resulting from discussing these spiritual blessings from the Father.

³James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G4309.

⁴Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G4309.

What is the next blessing?

Redemption

It means “a release effected by payment of ransom”⁵ (Jesus’ blood).

- in Christ
- through His blood
- forgiveness
- according to the riches of His grace
- lavished on us

1 Peter 1:18-19

Believers are not redeemed / ransomed perishable things like silver and gold.
Jesus redeemed with His blood.

Colossians 1:13-14

This connects forgiveness of sins with redemption.

Romans 3:24; 8:23

Our redemption brings justification (being right before God) as a gift by His grace.

In the future our physical bodies will also be redeemed.

Jesus’ blood redeemed; redemption brought forgiveness and righteousness.

Believers are being conformed into His image because of God’s spiritual blessings.

Ask when this payment of Jesus’ blood or redemption was made and add that to your time line.

Jesus paid the price of redemption at the cross. It was God’s predetermined plan.

Ask your group what they learned about the mystery and the administration / plan in verses 8-10.

Paul had wisdom and insight into the mystery of God’s will.

God had made it known to him.

administration / plan—management or oversight of other’s property⁶

- revealing the mystery of God’s plan of salvation
- all things related to salvation are summed up “in Christ”

Paul was called to make this mystery that had been hidden for ages known to the Gentiles.

⁵Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G629.

⁶James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G3622.

The fullness of times—the summing up or uniting of all things in Christ—seems to begin with the coming of Christ. That is when the mystery would have been understood.

What is the next blessing in this text?

Inheritance

Those who are adopted receive a predestined inheritance according to God’s purpose.

Note: The NASB marginal note says “have obtained an inheritance” can also be translated, “were made a heritage,”⁷ meaning believers are God’s heritage because of the price Jesus paid on the cross. You don’t have to bring this up, but be aware that both translations are possible in case someone mentions this.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Imperishable, undefiled, unfading inheritance kept in heaven

Romans 8:16-23

Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, waiting for the redemption of our bodies

Titus 3:5-7

Believers are heirs because of being justified by His grace.

James 2:5

Heirs of the kingdom, promised to those who love God.

Who were “the first to hope in Christ,” the first mentioned as having an inheritance?

Acts 2

The Jews were the first believers in Christ. The church began with Jewish believers like Peter, John, the apostles and others at Jerusalem.

John 1:11

Jesus went to His own first, the Jews, but as a whole they didn’t receive Him, but put Him on the cross.

Are the blessings of Ephesians 1:1-12 only for Jewish believers?

No, the whole of Ephesians tells that Jews and Gentiles are one “in Him.”

Who receives the blessings of salvation in verses 13-14? Ask your group what they learned about salvation in these verses.

“You also” is a reference to Gentile believers.

⁷ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Eph 1:11) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

The Ephesian believers initially heard the gospel (“good news”⁸) of salvation, in Acts 19, when Paul took it to them.

Acts 10

This tells of the first time a group of Gentiles was saved as part of the church. Some scholars believe this was about 8 years after Jews were first saved as part of the church in Acts 2 on Pentecost.

The gospel went to the Jews first, but most rejected.

The gospel also went to the Gentiles—the mystery of God’s plan unfolding.

Ask about being sealed with the Holy Spirit. Give time to discuss application.

The Holy Spirit is given at salvation as a pledge / guarantee of the Gentile believers also having the inheritance.

“a deposit guaranteeing that the full amount will be paid,”⁹ the fulness of redemption

Sealed—marked for possession or identity¹⁰

The Holy Spirit indwells all believers until the completion of God’s plan of redemption.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

As long as believers are in a body, they’re the temple of the Holy Spirit. You’ve been bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

1 John 3:1-3

Believers are God’s children now and will be like Jesus when He appears.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

Mortal bodies will become immortal.

The inheritance is salvation, the kingdom of God, eternal life.

⁸Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G2098.

⁹Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 435.

¹⁰James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.), (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). G2K5381.

GOD'S PLAN—GRACE

Chosen					
Predestined	cross	Jews saved	Geniles saved	Ephesians saved	
Before world's foundation	redemption				future redemption

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

LESSON EMPHASIS

- Ephesians 1:15–2:10
- Paul’s prayer

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking how Paul introduced his letter to the Ephesian believers in 1:1-2. Ask for a short review of who Paul was and who those believers were.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, revealed the mystery of Christ to the Gentile believers. He told them about Jew and Gentile in one body. He probably wrote this letter to the Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome.

The Ephesians were faithful. Their lives changed when they were saved, Acts 19.

Ask your group to look at their At a Glance charts and briefly review the main points of the chapters in Ephesians.

Chapter 1	Blessings and riches in Him/ Prayer
Chapter 2	Gentiles in the body by grace
Chapter 3	Paul revealed the mystery / Prayer
Chapter 4	Walk no longer as Gentiles
Chapter 5	Walk in love, light, wisdom/ Husbands and wives
Chapter 6	Stand firm, Put on God’s armor, Pray

How did Paul begin this letter? What are the spiritual blessings in Ephesians 1:3-14?

He blessed God because of the blessings He gave through salvation.
Chosen to be holy and blameless

Predestined to adoption

Grace freely bestowed (ESV—blessed) in the Beloved

Redemption, forgiveness

Understanding (ESV—make known) of the mystery

An inheritance

Sealed with the Holy Spirit

Then he prayed for the Ephesians to perceive, turn their attention to that hope of God's calling on their lives.

The blessings (of His calling) of verses 1-14 give hope.

Romans 8:28-30

Those whom God called will be conformed to Jesus' image . . . glorified.
That's something to hope in.

Philippians 1:3-6

This is another of Paul's prayers for believers.
God will complete the good work He began in believers.
He's faithful and able to bring it all about.

Philippians 1:19-21

Paul's hope was that he not be put to shame.
He asked prayer for deliverance, but knew that even death is gain for Christians.

2 Timothy 1:9-12

God saved and called us for His purpose and grace. Jesus brought life and immortality.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

This is another of Paul's prayers; this one to be blameless at Jesus' coming.
That's hope.

Ephesians 4:1, 4

The second part of Ephesians is instruction to walk in a manner worthy of this calling. It's a call to hope, hope of what's to come.

the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (ESV—his glorious inheritance)

“Riches” of His grace is in verse 7. He lavished those riches on believers.
Paul spoke of the inheritance in verses 11 and 14.

It is for those predestined to adoption as God's sons.

The Holy Spirit is given to believers as the pledge of this inheritance, verse 14.

NOTE: Some commentators and Greek word study scholars think Ephesians 1:11, 18 mean the saints are God's inheritance. NASB and ESV, “have obtained an inheritance” (verse 11) can also be translated, “were made a heritage.”⁵ Don't debate which is correct.

Colossians 1:9-12

And again this is one of Paul's prayers.

⁵ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Eph 1:11) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

He gave thanks to the Father.
Believers are qualified by the Father to share the inheritance of the saints.

Colossians 2:2-3

Believers are given riches of a full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery—here the mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him.

surpassing (immeasurable) greatness of His power toward us who believe

God’s inherent power, strength or ability
It is beyond anything man can understand. But believers can know the surpassing / immeasurable greatness of it because of the indwelling Spirit.

This power toward believers is according to the working (“operative” or “active power”⁶) of the strength (ESV—great) (presence of force⁷) of God’s might (“ability, force, strength, might”⁸).

This power is toward believers, and it’s described as being that which raised Jesus from the dead.

Give time for you group to discuss how all of this applies to them. How does this relate to everyday life?

You might ask them if they should pray this prayer for other believers, and themselves?

Ask where God’s power seated Jesus and how it relates to them.
Tell them to look at their stick figure sketches in the lesson.

He’s seated at God’s right hand
in the heavenly places—where believers’ are blessed with spiritual blessing
Far above
Rule
Authority
Power
Dominion
Every name
in this age
and the one to come

⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1753.

⁷ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2904.

⁸ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G2479.

These rulers can refer to those on earth and those in the heavenly or spiritual realm.

Jesus is the head of the church, His body, and all things are under His feet.

Ask your group where this puts them.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

What are these verses about? Tell them to look at what they listed on the cross diagram in the lesson on Day Three.

There's a major contrast in these verses between a believer's former life and life after salvation.

Former life

Dead in trespasses and sins
Walked in sins—lived constantly in sins
Following the world's course and the prince of the power of the air
Sons of disobedience
Lived in passions of flesh and mind
Children of wrath

But God

Rich in mercy
Loved us with a great love
Made us alive together with Christ
Saved us by grace through faith
faith, *pistis* – “conviction, belief in the truth”⁹
believe, *pisteuo* – “to place confidence in, to trust . . . reliance upon”¹⁰

Raised us up with Him
Seated us with Him in heavenly places

Now we're created in Christ for good works—to walk in them

Ask what your group learned about grace.

John 1:1, 14-17

Grace and truth were realized in (ESV—came through) Jesus.

⁹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G4102.

¹⁰ W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:61.

Acts 15 and 20

Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace in Jesus Christ.
The gospel of Jesus tells men of God's grace.
The Ephesians believed it and were saved by grace.

Romans 3:19-26

Those who were sinners, but who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by His grace.

Titus 3:1-8

Justified by His grace, we become heirs.

Ask what your group learned from their study about the former life under the devil's control and the devil himself. Discuss cross-references and word studies.

The prince of the power of the air
The spirit now working in the sons of disobedience

1 John 5:19

The whole world lies in his power. He's the evil one.

John 8:44 and Revelation 12:7-9; 20:2

He's the father of lies and a murderer, Satan, the serpent of old.
He's the deceiver of the whole world.
He has angels/ demons, helpers.

Colossians 1:13-14

The Father delivered believers from the domain of darkness—Satan's domain.

Matthew 12:22-28

Jesus cast out demons by God's Spirit. He rescued people from the devil's kingdom.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Jesus' death rendered him powerless (ESV—destroyed). Relate this to God's power in raising Jesus. God's power surpasses the devil's power.

John 12:30-33

The ruler of this world will be cast out at the judgment. It began with Jesus going to the cross, but is not yet complete.

Give your group time to talk about their lives, what they've been saved from, the power within and God's amazing love and grace.

Those who are saved by God's grace are no longer under the devil's control.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group if their lives have changed from the former things. Why or why not? It could be a matter of life or death for them. They could still be deceived by the father of lies.

Encourage them that Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is one they can pray for other believers.

<p>Paul’s prayer Ephesians 1:15-23</p>	<p>Saved by grace Ephesians 2:1-10</p>
<p>Know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hope of His calling -Riches of glory of inheritance (glorious inheritance) -Greatness of His power <p>Christ seated in heavenly places</p>	<p>Formerly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead in sins Walked according to (Followed) Prince—devil Children of wrath <p>Now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made alive Saved by grace Walk in good works <p>Believers seated in heavenly places</p>

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

LESSON EMPHASIS

- Ephesians 2:11-22

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember as the main points from Ephesians 1:1–2:10.

1:3-14	Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
1:15-23	Paul's prayer for the blessed
	Know Him
	Hope of His calling
	Riches of glory of His inheritance (glorious inheritance)
	Surpassing / immeasurable greatness of His power

Where is Jesus now seated, and where is the church?

In the heavenly places
Far above all other rulers and powers

The church is His body.

What are the main points of Ephesians 2:1-10?

Contrast of former life and salvation.

Walked by the prince of the air, lusts of the flesh

Sons of disobedience

Children of wrath

Saved by God's grace, mercy and love

Made alive

Seated in the heavenly places with Christ

To walk in good works

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Who were the recipients of this letter, and why did Paul write to them?

Gentile believers

He wrote to explain the mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body.

Use the chart in the lesson “Before / After” as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 11-12

Why was it important for them to understand? What was the Gentiles’ past relationship to God?

Uncircumcised
Separate from Christ
Excluded / alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
Strangers to the covenants of promise
Having no hope
Without God in the world

Ask your group if they have ever been like that, felt like that, known someone like that.
How can understanding this lesson help?

Ask what they learned from Genesis about circumcision and the Abrahamic Covenant.
Tell them to look at the chart at the end of the lesson as a visual aid.

Genesis 12:1-3

God promised to

- bless Abram
- make his name great
- bless those who blessed Abram
- curse those who cursed him
- in Abram all families of the earth would be blessed

Galatians 3:5-9

That was when God preached the gospel to Abraham.

Genesis 15:1-18

Abram was childless, but God promised a son from his own body.
He believed the Lord and was counted righteous.

Even Abraham became righteous, was saved, by faith.

On that day, the Lord made a covenant with him and his descendants / offspring to give them the land after they came from Egypt.

Genesis 17:1-14

The Abrahamic Covenant is everlasting.

God promised that He would be their God, and they would be His people.

Circumcision was the sign of this “Abrahamic” Covenant.

When the Jews called the Gentiles “uncircumcised,” it was an insult. It meant that the Gentiles had no part in their covenant with God. The Jews took pride in that covenant.

Ask your group what they learned about the promise and fulfillment of the New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27

Again God promised to be Israel’s God and they would be His people.

He would write His law on their hearts.

He also promised forgiveness.

Cleansing, a new heart and His Spirit within are also part of this covenant.

Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:18

Even the Gentile believers were sealed with the “promised” Holy Spirit when they believed. He is given as a pledge of inheritance.

Both Jews and Gentiles have access to the Father in the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:10-18

Jesus’ body was the offering which is the fulfillment of this New Covenant.

Luke 22:14, 19-20

His blood was the blood of this covenant.

Ask what they learned about the Davidic Covenant.

2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16 and 2 Chronicles 21:7

God promised David a house, family line, and a kingdom forever.

Romans 1:1-5; Revelation 19:11-16 and 20:4

Jesus was descended from David’s line. He’s the coming King of kings who will reign.

Verses 13-18

What did Jesus’ blood do?

It brought the Gentile believers near like the Jewish believers.

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, broke the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles. That was the Law. He abolished (made void¹, “cause to come to an end”²) the enmity (“hostility”³) between Jews and Gentiles.

He made the two one new (“of a new kind”⁴, “previously unknown”⁵) man.

He reconciled (“bring back to a former state of harmony”⁶) Jew and Gentile in one body to God.

Ask what your group learned about reconciliation and how this should affect their lives.

Jews and Gentiles

Romans 5:6-10

People and God – while enemies, reconciled to God through the blood of the cross, resulting in salvation.

Colossians 1:18-23

To be presented holy and blameless and beyond reproach.
The evidence is continuing in the faith and hope of the gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Believers are given the ministry of reconciliation—leading others to have peace with God. Give the gospel to the lost, those still God’s enemies.

Verses 19-22

What are the main points of these verses? You might draw a simple building / structure as a visual aid for this part of the discussion.

Gentile believers

- no longer strangers and aliens
- fellow citizens with the Jewish saints
- God’s household

¹ A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. vol. IV, c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1997), p. 527.

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK2934.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G 2189.

⁴ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G2537.

⁵ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK2785.

⁶ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G604.

The apostles and prophets make up the foundation for the house.

The whole house of living stones is being built together into a temple, a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

God's house is built on Jesus, the cornerstone.

Ask what your group learned about the cornerstone, Jesus.

Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42-44; Acts 4:8-12

The stone the builders rejected became the cornerstone—Jesus.

The chief priests and Pharisees of Israel at Jesus' time rejected Him.

The rulers, builders, of Israel at Jesus' time rejected the cornerstone.

Isaiah 8:13-15

Many of Israel will stumble on the rock of offense, the stone of stumbling—Jesus.

Isaiah 28:16

God laid a foundation in Zion (Jerusalem) a tested stone, precious cornerstone.

It's the sure foundation for those who believe.

Romans 9:30-33

Whoever believes in Him is not put to shame.

1 Peter 2:4-10

Jesus was a living stone, rejected.

Believers are living stones being built up to offer spiritual sacrifices to God.

- Chosen race
- Royal priesthood
- Holy nation
- People for God's possession
- Called out of darkness

To proclaim God's excellencies

Ask what excellencies they've learned from this lesson.

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis

- Ephesians 3

REVIEW

What is the flow of thought in Ephesians 1–2?

1:1-14 Blessed God for spiritual blessings/ riches in Christ
1:15-23 Prayer

2:1-10 Gentiles formerly dead, but now alive in Christ
2:11-22 Formerly far off, but now brought near in Christ
Jew and Gentile in one body

EPHESIANS 3

What is chapter 3 about?

1-13 The mystery of Christ
14-21 Paul's prayer

Verses 1-6

What do these verses say about Paul and his ministry?

Paul

A prisoner for Jesus Christ
A steward of God's grace
Understood the mystery by revelation

Previous generations had not known the mystery, but the Spirit revealed it to Christ's holy apostles and prophets, one of which was Paul.

The mystery had been revealed to him, and he brought to light its administration / plan.

mystery—*mysterion*—"hidden thing, secret"¹

administration / plan—*oikonomia*—"task . . . plan . . . set of arrangements"²; "the management of a household or of household affairs"³

¹James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G3466.

He had a stewardship from God to reach the Gentiles with the message of salvation, and reveal to them the mystery.

They are fellow heirs
fellow members of the body (ESV does not use “fellow”)
fellow partakers of the promise (ESV does not use “fellow”)

How does Colossians 1:24-29 relate to this?

The mystery in Colossians 1 is Christ in believers, the hope of glory.

The mystery in Ephesians is Jewish believers and Gentile believers in the same body—the church.

Using the chart on Day Three as a visual aid, ask your group what they learned about the body in Ephesians 1-3.

1:22-23

It's the church—Christ's body, and He's the head. God gave Him to the church as the head over all things. The body is to be the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2:16

Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled in one body—the church—through the cross.

2:19-22

God's household, a holy temple, dwelling of God in the Spirit

3:10

God's manifold wisdom is made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places through the church.

Verses 7-13

What do these verses say about Paul and his ministry?

God's grace made him a minister of the gospel.
He was to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles.
He was to bring to light the hidden mystery.
Again he mentioned his suffering, in prison, and asked that the Ephesians not lose heart because of it.

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK3873.

³W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:174.

What was God's purpose? How does it relate to believers now?

The eternal purpose was realized in Christ.

Both Jewish believers and Gentile believers have boldness and access to the Father with confidence through faith in Christ and because of the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:19-22

We have confidence to enter God's presence because of Jesus' blood making the way.

Let us draw near because Jesus is our high priest over the house of God.

We have a clean conscience, so we can have full assurance of going before Him.

Ask what they learned from the cross-references about Jesus' and Paul's ministry. As they discuss, encourage them to share how these truths can apply to their lives.

John 17:4

Jesus said He accomplished the work God gave Him to do, which glorified God.

Galatians 2:7-8; Romans 15:20

Paul, too, understood his calling. He was entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised Gentiles .

Acts 26:1-20; 2 Timothy 4:4-18

Paul was appointed by Jesus as a minister and witness of the things he had seen and was obedient to that call. He could say at the end of his life that he had fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith. He finished well.

2 Timothy 1:8-12

Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the gospel. By the power of God, he was able suffer for his calling. He spoke the gospel that salvation was granted from all eternity, but revealed in Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.

Remind your group that God has a purpose for each believer's life, a calling from Him. Will they walk in obedience to His call and finish well as Paul did?

Verses 14-21

What are these verses? Ask what your group learned from their study.

As a visual aid you can note the main points of this prayer.

This is another prayer that Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers.

Instead of even Paul losing heart at his suffering, he bowed his knees before the Father.

He used that confident access to Him by Jesus' blood and the Spirit.

It begins with God the Father.

He's the one every family gets its name from. He's the origin of families.

What did Paul pray, or what did he ask for the Ephesians? Discuss word studies and cross-references where appropriate.

He asked that they be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man / being.

power—*dunamis*—inherent power⁴ through His Spirit

Inherent means it's part of one's nature, the new nature because of the Spirit within. It's power in the inner man.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

God's power is perfected in a believer's weakness.

Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

The Holy Spirit gives power for witnessing. It's not done in the believer's own strength.

Paul was an example of this. His preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that the faith of those who heard did not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Romans 15:13-19; 1 Peter 1:3-5

As Paul preached, signs and wonders performed in the power of the Spirit caused changed lives among the Gentiles.

Peter said it's that power which protects believers for the completion of salvation, glorified bodies, in the last time.

Romans also says that believers abound in hope, believing God, by the Holy Spirit's power.

Ephesians 1:18-21; 2 Peter 1:3

Paul prayed that believers would know the surpassing greatness of His power toward them.

God's power grants believers everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him. By being in His Word, Christians can have that knowledge and then walk in the light of it by His power.

Acts 3-4

It is by God's power that healing takes place. Man is simply an instrument God uses.

Revelation 7:12

The multitude around God's throne in heaven worships Him, ascribing power to Him.

⁴James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G1411.

Let your group discuss what it means to live in the power of the Spirit.

What was Paul's request for power based on?

It was according to the riches of His glory. There are several references to God's riches in Ephesians.

- Riches of His grace
- Riches of the glory of His inheritance
- Rich in mercy
- Surpassing riches of His grace
- Unfathomable riches of Christ
- Riches of His glory

What was the result of the prayer request?

He prayed that they would be strengthened with power:

- so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
dwell—*katoikeo*—"to settle down in a dwelling, to dwell fixedly in a place"⁵

It was not that Christ was not in their hearts; Paul had made it clear they were believers.

- to grasp the vastness and know Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, being rooted and grounded in love

There is so much more to God's love than man really knows.

All of this he prayed, to the end that they would be filled up to all the fullness of God. His desire was that they be completely filled with God, not with self.

Ask your group if that is their prayer for themselves and for other believers. Practically, what does the life of one filled up to all the fullness of God look like?

Paul ends his prayer with praise to the one who can do far more abundantly beyond all one can ask or think . . . His power working in believers. Power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in heavenly places far above all other power.

To end your discussion, ask your group how these verses relate to believers today.

Encourage them to pray this prayer for one another.

⁵W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:187.

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis

- Ephesians 4:1-6

REVIEW

Ask your group what they remember about the flow of thought in Ephesians 1–3.

1:1-14 Blessed God for spiritual blessings/ riches in Christ

1:15-23 Prayer

2:1-10 Gentiles formerly dead, but now alive in Christ

2:11-22 Formerly far off, but now brought near in Christ
Jew and Gentile in one body

3:1-13 Paul, a steward of the mystery of Christ

3:14-21 Prayer

EPHESIANS 4

Ask how Ephesians 4 relates to chapters 1–3.

It begins with, “Therefore . . . walk in a manner worthy of the calling...”
He had explained the calling in the first three chapters.

Paul told believers how to “walk” because of the content of Ephesians 1–3.

- Because of being blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies
- Because of knowing the hope of one’s calling
- Because of being saved by grace
- Because of being His workmanship
- Because of being brought near in Christ
- Because of having access to the Father in one Spirit
- Because of His eternal purpose
- Because of being strengthened with power through His Spirit
- And because He is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think

Chapter 4 begins a new segment.

1–3 Who we are/ the blessings we have in Christ

4–6 How we are to walk because of who we are and what we have

Ask your group what else they remember about their calling.

Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless

Predestined to adoption
to the praise of the glory of His grace

Redemption, forgiveness

Sealed with the Holy Spirit, the pledge of inheritance

If no one mentions it, ask how Paul referred to himself in verse 1.

The prisoner of the Lord

Paul was evidently in a literal prison when he wrote this letter, but he also considered himself a captive of the Lord, constrained by Him.

Verses 1-3

Ask what your group learned about the walk.

It's not like the former walk.

It's a walk in good works which God prepared for each believer beforehand.

This is based on God's grace and His riches in Christ.

And it's powered through His Spirit.

It's a walk worth of the calling.

“Worthy,” means “properly”¹ or “that which balances the scales.”²

This gives the idea that the walk should be balanced with the calling.
As the calling is high, so the walk is also.
God calls, but the individual believer must carry out the walk.

How does a believer walk worthy? Discuss word studies and application, also.

This walk is to be based on humility and gentleness. Those are two character traits which bring and promote unity among believers.

¹ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK547.

² Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 440.

humility—“the having a humble opinion of one’s self . . . modesty . . . lowliness of mind”³

gentleness—“mildness of disposition”⁴; “an inwrought grace of the soul”⁵

There is a chart at the end of this lesson’s guide which you might use as a visual aid.

Let your group discuss how these descriptions can promote unity in the body of Christ, even between those of different denominations.

Ask how they are to show tolerance for (ESV—bear with) one another.

showing tolerance / bearing with—“to hold one’s self erect and firm”⁶; “to hold in or back, restrain”⁷; “the word indicates giving patience to someone till the provocation is past (Eadie)”⁸

This is to be done “with patience” among believers.

with patience—longsuffering, endurance, perseverance⁹

That is with fellow-believers.
And all of this is to be done in love.

It takes diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit. The Spirit doesn’t divide believers from believers.

At this point, it might be a good time to ask the question in the lesson about how this plays out in “your relationship with believers you disagree with doctrinally.”

Give time for them to discuss personal application.

³James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G5012.

⁴James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G4240.

⁵Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G4240.

⁶James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G430.

⁷Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G430.

⁸Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 440.

⁹James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G3115.

Verses 4-6

How is it that believers can have unity of the Spirit according to these verses?

You can list the “ones” on your visual aid as your group says each, then discuss each one individually.

One body

One Spirit

One hope of your calling

One Lord

One faith

One baptism

One God and Father of all

Then you might ask how this indicates unity.

Ask what they learned about “one body” from Ephesians.

It’s the church, Christ’s body.

The church, body, is made up of Jews and Gentiles reconciled in one body to God. That body is one new man.

The mystery revealed to Paul was that Gentiles are also part of the body, the church.

The whole body grows together with a growth from God (Colossians 2:19), but each individual part has to function properly.

Ask whether or not they are promoting unity in the body or division.

Now ask about “one Spirit” from Ephesians and the other passages in the lesson.

Ephesians 1:13-14

All believers, Jews and Gentiles, are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

He’s the guarantee of our inheritance.

Ephesians 2:18-22

Both church, Jews and Gentiles, has access to the Father through the Spirit.
The church is a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:5, 16

The Spirit revealed to the apostles and prophets the mystery Paul wrote about.

Believers are strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner man / being.

Ephesians 4:3-4

Believers are to preserve / maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

John 14:15-17, 25-26 and 16:12-15

Jesus taught that the Spirit of truth indwells all believers forever and teaches all things to them. He guides believers into the truth. The Spirit glorifies Jesus.

Romans 8:9, 14-17

If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then that one does not belong to Christ because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.

The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are His children.

Those who are led by the Spirit are truly the sons of God.

Give time to discuss application of the unity of the Spirit.

Ask about “one hope of your calling.”

All Christians have the same calling and it brings the same hope for all.

The prayer for one another is that all know what that hope is.

Who is the “one Lord”?

Lord means master. Jesus Christ is the Lord and master.

Romans 10:8-13

He’s the master of both Jews and Gentiles.

Philippians 2:9-11

One day everyone will confess that He is Lord, but now only the body of Christ does.

What is the “one faith”?

It’s saving faith in Jesus as the Christ.

The common ground for all believers is what they believe.

If we all believe the same thing for salvation, then why should we not be diligent to preserve unity among those who are saved?

Ask what your group learned from 1 Corinthians 12:13 about “one baptism.”

Each believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into one body when that one believes.

All drink of one Spirit.

What is the last “one”? Ask your group what they learned about their heavenly Father.

One God and Father of all—all believers, Jews and Gentiles

Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:39 and Isaiah 43:10; 45:5-6

He is the only God. There is no god besides Him.

He kills and makes alive, wounds and heals.

Mark 12:29

Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy that the Lord is one.

John 5:44

Jesus said there is only one God.

Romans 3:29-30

He is the God of the Jews and the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 8:6

One God, the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ

John 17:20-23

Jesus is one with the Father.

He prayed for believers to be perfected in unity like the Father and He are.

To close this discussion, ask your group how they might be more diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Give them time to share based on this lesson and discussion.

THE “WALK”	UNITY
Worthy of the calling	One body
Humility and gentleness	One Spirit
Tolerance / bearing with with patience in love	One hope of calling One Lord
Preserve / maintain the unity of the Spirit in bond of peace	One faith One baptism One God and Father of all

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson focus

- Ephesians 4:7-16

REVIEW

Ask your group what the main segments of Ephesians are.

- 1–3 blessings and riches in Christ, His grace
- 4–6 walk in a manner worthy, believers' responsibility

Then ask what they remember from the previous lesson on Ephesians 4:1-6.

There is a walk or way to live which is worthy of God's grace and blessings.

The first thing Paul presents as part of the worthy walk is the unity of the Spirit.
The "ones" of verses 4-6 tell why the unity is reality.

Even though Jews and Gentiles have very different backgrounds, they become united in the church. Therefore, all believers need to be diligent to preserve / maintain this unity of the Spirit within the church.

You might give a brief time for your group to discuss how this applies to their church situation.

EPHESIANS 4:7-16

Verses 7-10

How does verse 7 begin?

With a contrast

Paul spoke of all believers in verse 6 and changed to the individual, "each one," in verse 7.

God gave grace to each believer according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Then verse 8 says He gave gifts to men when He ascended.

As a visual aid you might draw stick figures of Christ ascending to heaven and men on earth with gifts.

Ask about the definition of gifts and related cross-references.

“Gift” in verse 7 (*dorea*) means “a free gift”¹ with the focus “on the freeness of the gift.”²

Grace—that undeserved favor from God was given to each individual in Christ’s body, not just to all as a unit.

“Gifts” (*doma*) in verse 8 is from the same root word as in verse 7.

John 7:37-39

After Jesus was glorified (His death, resurrection and ascension), the Holy Spirit came to permanently live in all who believe in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gifts to believers as manifestation of Him within them. The gifts are for the good of all believers, functions within the church body.

Acts 2:22-36

This tells of the Holy Spirit coming after Jesus’ ascension. God the Father, through Jesus the Son, poured forth His Spirit on all who believed. That was when spiritual gifts were initially given to members of Christ’s body.

How do verses 9 and 10 relate to the context of Ephesians 4:7-16?

Paul gave explanation for what he meant by quoting Psalm 68:18 relative to Jesus’ ascension.

The Psalm is a song of God’s victory written by David.

God’s captives seems to be a reference to Israel, His people, whom He rescued from captivity and with whom He shared the spoils of victory—the land, Jerusalem, His dwelling place (His sanctuary).

When Jesus ascended as the victor, He had also delivered the captives. And He gave gifts to men so that they could carry on the victory—He gave the Spirit who gave the spiritual gifts.

NOTE: Don’t let your discussion get off track by spending too much time on what the descending into the depths of the earth means.

Some think that Jesus’ descending is a reference to Him coming down from heaven to be born as a man and live on earth. Others consider it a reference to Him descending into the lower parts of the earth after the cross and before He ascended far above all the heavens.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1431.

² John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Eph 4:7) (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997), p. 1808.

There is a contrast in verses 9 and 10 between the lower parts of the earth and far above all the heavens. Those phrases cover everywhere.

Ask your group what they learned about Hades from their study.

Acts 2:22-36

Jesus' soul was not abandoned in Hades.

1 Peter 3:18-22

Jesus went to the spirits in prison and made proclamation—a proclamation of victory. This is in the context of His death and ascension.

Matthew 16:18

Jesus gave Peter the keys of the kingdom. And He said the gates of Hades will not overpower His church.

Luke 16:23

Hades seems to be a place of the unrighteous dead.

Revelation 1:18

Jesus has the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 20:13-14

At the final judgment it will be thrown into the lake of fire—the second death.

Verses 11-16

What are the gifts Jesus gave to men in verse 11?

He gave some as (ESV—He gave the apostles...)

- apostles
- prophets
- evangelists
- pastors / shepherds and teachers

NOTE: Some think pastor and teacher is one gift or gifted person. Others think they are two separate gifts or gifted people.

Why?

To equip the saints for the work of service / ministry
To build up the body of Christ

So that those in the body are no longer children tossed by every wind of doctrine
For the growth of the body, the church

Give time for discussion of how these specific gifts accomplish their stated purposes in this text.

Apostle

“A delegate, messenger”³; “one sent on a mission”⁴

The message is God’s Word—the gospel.

Prophet

“Prophecy” signifies “the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.”⁵

Evangelist

“A messenger of good”⁶; “a bringer of good news”⁷

Their focus is giving the gospel to the lost so that they become part of the body.

Pastor / shepherd-teacher

Many scholars think that this is one gift or person. This one is not only a teacher of God’s word, but also a shepherd⁸ of the flock he teaches.

Ask if your group has anything to add to this discussion from 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:1-8 or 1 Peter 4:10-11.

A different Greek word for “gifts,” from the one in Ephesians 4, is used in all three of the passages. It means gifts of grace. The gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit in every believer. But every believer does not have the same spiritual gift(s).

Therefore, the body of Christ needs all of its members to function properly.
The gifts are given “for the common good” of the church.

Peter states that these gifts fall into two main categories—speaking and serving.
Those who speak are to speak God’s Word.

The four gifts or men in Ephesians 4:11 are speaking gifts. All focus on speaking God’s Word. That is what equips the saints for the work of service / ministry. The Word of God also builds up the body. And it is the true doctrine for the church which combats false doctrine.

³ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G652.

⁴ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition*, (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G652.

⁵ W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:492.

⁶ W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:208.

⁷ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G2099.

⁸ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G4166.

You can add to your visual aid drawing one or two stick figures who speak God's word. Then you might add a church to the drawing.

You can ask your group what they learned from their word studies to understand verses 12-16.

equipping (ESV—equip)—“a preparation or training that fully qualifies”⁹

When those with the speaking gifts give forth God's Word to the saints, it prepares them; it trains them to be fully qualified for the work of service / ministry which is needed.

Ask your group to consider how studying God's Word during this Ephesians Precept course has equipped them.

The proper use of these gifts to equip the body leads to the body being built up. It leads to a unity of the faith—it leads to maturity.

mature—“having reached its end . . . complete”¹⁰; “that which has reached the set goal, perfect, mature”¹¹

There is a contrast in verse 14, “children,” with this maturity of verse 13.

Ask your group if they want to be mature believers. Ask them to consider how childishness is presented here.

Being tossed here and there and carried about by false doctrines.
The truth of God's Word is what leads to maturity.

Encourage them to make maturity a goal in their lives, to stop being children in their thinking.

Men's trickery / cunning leads the immature to false doctrine.

trickery / cunning—“cunningness, craftiness.”¹² This is a metaphor meaning the deception of men. It comes from dice playing, in which the “players sometimes cheated and defrauded their fellow players.”¹³

⁹ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK2938.

¹⁰W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:466.

¹¹ Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 441.

¹²James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK3235.

¹³James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G2940.

False doctrines might sound good to begin with, but only lead to childishness and/ or destruction. One current-day example would be teachings which focus on self instead of on God and His will.

What are the instructions in verse 15?

Speak the truth.
Grow up.

Speaking the truth of God's Word to one another leads to maturity

What does verse 16 teach about the growth of the body?

The whole body is "fitted / joined and held together" by every joint.

fitted / joined—"to join closely together"¹⁴

held together—"to unite or knit together . . . to put together in one's mind"¹⁵

This shows the closeness of the church as a living body of Christ.

Ask you group to think about whether or not this is true now.

It is . . . among true believers who are not listening to trickery / cunning of men for doctrine. Relate this to Colossians 2:19.

The growth comes from the "proper working" of each individual part.

"proper" means "the required measure"¹⁶

"working" is "operative power"¹⁷ or "efficiency"¹⁸

To end this discussion you might ask your group how they are doing with their part. Let them consider how this lesson can be applied in their lives.

¹⁴ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G4883.

¹⁵ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G4822

¹⁶ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G3358.

¹⁷ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1753b.

¹⁸ James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G1753.

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson focus

- Ephesians 4:17–5:14
- How to “walk”

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group what the main segment division is in Ephesians and what each segment is about.

Ephesians 1–3	blessings in Christ
Ephesians 4–6	walking in a manner worthy

After establishing who the Gentile believers are and what they have “in Christ,” Paul turns to instructing them how to live differently as part of the church.

What are the first things Paul tells about walking in a worthy manner in Ephesians 4:1-16?

The unity of the Body of Christ, the Church
The growth of the Body, from the effectual working of the gifts Christ gave

After describing the “oneness” of the body, he tells how the body is to grow up into maturity.

EPHESIANS 4

Verses 17-24

Use the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

How does he begin verse 17? What does he tell the Gentile believers about their walk?

“So (ESV—Now) this I say”

He wrote what follows based on what he already said in 4:1-16.

“walk no longer just as the Gentiles” (ESV—no longer walk as the Gentiles do)

Formerly they lived like everyone else around them. But Paul wrote to them that they had a changed life and could no longer live like they had before salvation.

Verses 17-19 describe how the Gentiles still lived. This is a description of the unsaved contrasted with how believers are to live in verses 1-16 and 20-32.

Ask how this description relates to Ephesians 2:1-3 and briefly discuss.

The former life

Futility of mind

Understanding darkened

Ignorance which excludes / alienates them from life

Those things have to do with the mind.

Hard heart

Callousness leading to sensuality

Practicing impurity and greed

Those might be categorized as more emotional.

But God, by His grace and mercy, saves people from those things and gives them life—
new life.

What do verses 20-24 teach?

Again there are words which have to do with knowledge or the mind—“learn,” “heard,”
and “taught.” What one thinks/ believes is of utmost importance. That’s what verses 11-
16 say, too.

If one is still in ignorance, not understanding, having a futile mind, then that one is not
saved. But there is also a warning to those who are to be careful about the teaching they
listen to. Some of it is trickery / cunning of men leading to deception.

Learn Christ—the truth is in Him, the truth is in His Word.

Ask what your group learned about the old and new self.
Tell them to look at their chart at the end of the lesson.

The old self is the former one which is being corrupted by the lusts of deceit (ESV—
deceitful desires).

Ephesians 2:1-3 tells that it’s the sons of disobedience who live according to lusts.
You lay that old self aside.

The contrast is a renewal of the mind.

Put on the new self

created in righteousness and holiness of the truth

(ESV—created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and
holiness)

Compare this with Ephesians 2:10.

Knowing Christ brings the truth to a person, and that one is renewed to a life of righteousness and holiness—not like his former life of lust and deceit.

Colossians 3:9-10

Paul wrote to the Colossian believers that they had laid aside the old self and put on the new self.

He used similar language about the new self—being renewed to a true (ESV does not use “true”) knowledge, the basis and image is the Creator.

Romans 6:1-11

Christians are raised with Christ to walk in newness of life; not continue in the former lifestyle.

The old self was crucified with Him—no longer slaves to sin

Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God.

Give time for your group to discuss how this relates to their lives on an everyday basis.

Verses 25-32

How does Ephesians 4:25 begin and how does it relate to the previous verses?

“therefore”—because you lay aside the old and put on the new

Which life do verses 25-32 describe and how? Give some time for your group to discuss. Tell them to look at the list they made on Day Four.

Relate verse 25 to verse 15.

There is an emphasis on the truth in the new life. Truth is to be spoken at all times—in teaching and relationships. Truthing in love is what grows up the body.

Anger is the next subject mentioned. The text does not say “don’t be angry” but not to sin when angry.

Give time for them to discuss what they think not letting the sun go down on anger means.

The devil seeks opportunity to tempt believers to further sin.

What’s the next instruction?

The next subject is stealing—don’t do it.

In the new life one is to work so he'll have something to share or give to another instead of taking.

Verse 29 tells about words.

Nothing unwholesome / corrupting
unwholesome / corrupting, *sapros* – “rotten, worthless”¹

Words of edification (building up)
Words of grace (undeserved blessing or favor)

Ask your group what can happen when believers speak to one another with those kinds of words.

NOTE: The lesson instructed students to look up words in the commands that they didn't understand, so we've included definitions for words that some might not be familiar with.

How does verse 30 relate to the words believers speak? To the way believers live?

Disobedience to these instructions grieves God's Holy Spirit within the believer. He is there to produce the words and works of God in the new self. Relate this to 3:16 and 4:3-4.

What contrast ends this chapter?

Put away

Bitterness
Wrath
Anger
Clamor, *kraugē* – “an outcry...of tumult or controversy”²
Slander
Malice, *kakia* – “wickedness as an evil habit of the mind”³

Be

Kind
Tender-hearted
Forgiving

¹Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G4550.

²Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2906.

³Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2549.

What does this forgiving mean? And how are believers to forgive?

It's not the Greek word usually translated as "forgive" or "forgiving."

charizomai, (from the word meaning grace) means "to show someone a favor,"⁴
"to do something pleasant or agreeable"⁵

Discuss how this definition fits the context.

Forgive just as Christ forgave you.

Ask about the cross-references on forgiveness.

"Forgive" in these passages is *aphiēmi*, "to let go from obligation toward oneself, to remit, e.g., a debt or offense."⁶

Luke 23:33-35

Jesus asked His Father to forgive those involved with His crucifixion.

Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35

If we forgive others for their transgressions, our heavenly Father will forgive us.

Forgive seventy times seven—limitless forgiveness.

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

How does verse 1 begin and what is the subject?

"Therefore" imitate God
believers are to forgive— just as Christ did
as children imitate their fathers

walk in love—just as Christ loved
He gave Himself as a sacrifice.

What do verses 3-6 say?

More contrast
Immorality
Impurity
Greed / covetousness

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G5483.

⁵ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G5483.

⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G863.

These things are not to be named among true believers.

Those belong to the former life and the lives of those who have no inheritance in God's kingdom. Relate this to a believer's inheritance in 1:11-18.

This describes the sons of disobedience, the ones God's wrath comes upon.
Relate to Ephesians 2:1-3.

How does 1 Corinthians 6 compare with this?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

God is very clear in His Word as to who is truly saved and who is not.

The unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom—they're not saved, no inheritance.

Fornicators, adulterers
Idolaters
Effeminate, homosexuals
Thieves
Covetous
Drunkards
Revilers
Swindlers

This list is very similar to the one in Ephesians.

This lesson can help your group properly evaluate where they are and perhaps where others are whom God brings to mind.

God's wrath comes on the sons of disobedience;
“therefore,” don't partake / associate with them.

Verses 7-14

How else does Paul describe the “worthy walk”?

Walk in the light
Goodness
Righteousness
Truth
Pleasing the Lord

The former walk was in darkness
Unfruitful
Disgraceful / shameful

Verse 14 is a saying.
Awake—be alert, know the truth
Arise—walk, do what is right
Christ will shine on you.

Ask your group what else they learned from their study about light and darkness.

John 1:1-8

Jesus brought light into the world of darkness

John 3:19-21

Unbelievers hate the light, fearing their evil deeds will be exposed.

Believers come to the light so that their deeds are shown to be of God.

Colossians 1:12-14

God the Father rescued believers from the domain of darkness and gave them an inheritance with the saints in light.

1 John 1:5-7

God is light. There is no darkness at all in Him.

Believers, those who walk in the light, have fellowship with Him and each other.

Those who say they have fellowship with Him (say they are believers) yet walk in darkness are lying and don't practice the truth.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Believers and unbelievers have no fellowship. Believers are not to partake of what unbelievers do.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Believers are called sons of light and sons of day. They need to be alert and sober as those who walk in light when darkness is all around.

You might close this discussion by asking how observing these contrasts of life have helped your group.

**EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9**

Lesson focus

- Ephesians 5:15–6:9
- Relationships

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the two main segments of Ephesians are about.

Ephesians 1–3	blessings and riches in Christ
Ephesians 4–6	walking in a manner worthy

After establishing who the Gentile believers are and what they have “in Christ,” Paul turns to instructing them how to live differently as part of the church.

Chapters 1–3 tell why we are able to walk (live) in such a way
Then chapters 4–6 tell what to do to live worthy of the calling

What are the things Paul said about “walk” in Ephesians 4–5?

Walk no longer just as Gentiles walk.

Walk in love, as Christ loved you.

Walk as children of light.

EPHESIANS 5

Verses 15-21

What does Paul teach about the “walk” in these verses?

Be careful (ESV--look carefully).

He made that statement right after he spoke of not participating in deeds of darkness anymore—while the unsaved close around still do.

Walk as wise men, not as unwise
The wise look carefully; they don’t simply live by emotions.

Give your group a brief moment to evaluate how they spend their time. Is it wisely spent? Are they looking carefully to be wise men and women?

The key to wise living is to understand the Lord's will.

Paul mentioned God's will as he opened this letter, 1:1-11.

He was an apostle because it was God's will.

God's will is from kind intentions.

God works all things after the counsel of His will.

All that God in Christ did for us was/ is God's will.

In 6:6 it says that we are to do His will from the heart.

That's to be our guiding desire; it's to be our will.

Understanding His will for our lives is how we live wisely instead of foolishly.

At this point you might ask if anyone read the verses in Proverbs about wisdom and what they learned. Watch your time because there is much more to discuss.

Ask your group what they learned from their study of verse 18.

There is a contrast of control.

“Dissipation / debauchery” contrasted with “filled with the Spirit”

“Dissipation / debauchery” means “extravagant squandering,”¹
“wastefulness.”²

“Filled” means “to fill up, to cause to abound, to furnish or supply
liberally.”³

The Gentiles surrounding the believers were still living in dissipation / debauchery.
It's also what goes on around Christians now.

If one is filled with the Spirit of God, then he is careful how he walks. He walks
according to God's will wisely and not foolishly wasting the time and resources he has.

The command to be filled with the Spirit is in the present tense which means continuous
action—keep on being filled with the Spirit. It's to be the lifestyle or “walk” of a believer.

As one is filled with the Spirit, he/ she has joyful communion with God and others.

Speaking / addressing

Singing and making melody

Giving thanks

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G810.

² Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G810.

³ K. S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Eph 5:18) (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), p. 127.

Being subject / submitting (arranging or placing oneself under another^{4, 5})

Those are evidence of one filled with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-26

Also presents evidence—the “fruit” or character of the Spirit.
If there is time, discuss each.

Acts 2:2-4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13; 9-12, 52

Tells of several who were filled with the Spirit immediately before teaching, speaking or confronting others. It also says that the disciples (followers) of the Lord were continually filled with the Spirit.

Luke 1:15, 41, 67

Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was filled with the Spirit and prophesied about his son.

Ask your group about other instructions or commands regarding the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:1-6

To walk in a manner worthy of our calling we are to be preserving the unity of the Spirit among believers.

Ephesians 4:30

Don't grieve the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Don't quench the Spirit.

If we are filled with the Spirit, then we won't grieve or quench Him. Sin grieves Him; not listening to Him grieves Him. Not following His leading quenches Him.

Ephesians 6:17

Take the sword of the Spirit (God's Word). We live according to His Word as we are filled with the Spirit, and we use it wisely.

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in the Spirit.

This means to be led in prayer by God's Spirit. He's to be our guide as to how or what we pray.

There is no mention of speaking in tongues in Ephesians. It's not in this context.

⁴Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G5293.

⁵James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G5293.

Verses 22-33

How does the description of the walk prepare for the instructions about relationships?

If we walk (live) in a worthy manner, not like our former life, but in love, then we will live with others according to God’s will and led by the Spirit.

What are the relationships he talks about? Discuss each. Tell you group to look at their chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

Wives and husbands

Wives are to be subject / submit to their own husbands

- as to the Lord
- as the church is to Christ

Wives are to respect their husbands as he is the head.

Husbands are to love their own wives

- as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her
- as their own bodies

They are to nourish and cherish her as part of the sacrificial love for her

- as Christ does the church

Love is *agapao* and can best be understood by Christ’s example.

The relationship of Christ and the church is the example for marriage.

Christ is the head and Savior of the body.

The church is subject to Him.

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to sanctify her, to present her:

in glory / splendor

holy

blameless / without blemish

He nourishes (“bring up to maturity”⁶) and cherishes (“to warm...to foster with tender care”⁷) the church.

She is to respect (“reverence”⁸) him.

⁶ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1625.

⁷ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G2282.

⁸ Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 445.

What do the other passages studied with this section add to Ephesians?

1 Corinthians 11

God established an order for marriage. As Christ is the head of every man and God is the head of Christ, the husband is head of the wife. Therefore, she is to place herself under his authority. But there is equality of man and woman in Christ.

Genesis 1

Man and woman both were created in God’s image and given joint rule over the earth and its creatures.

Galatians 3

Neither male nor female in Christ—all are the same, one in Him.

If there is time, you can ask about the article on women in Paul’s day.

Ask what they learned about their heavenly bridegroom, Christ Jesus.

Mark and John

Tell of rejoicing in the presence of the bridegroom.

2 Corinthians

Says a similar thing to Ephesians. The church is betrothed to Christ.

2 Corinthians and Revelation

Tell of the bride’s readiness for marriage.

Purity

Righteousness

Ask your group how they are preparing themselves for meeting their heavenly bridegroom, their Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 6

Verses 1-4

Who, which relationship is first in this chapter?

Children and parents

After telling children to obey (“to listen, attend to”⁹) their parents, he quotes one of the Ten Commandments—honor your father and mother. Obedience is part of honoring them.

Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger.

⁹ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G5219.

This father, one who is careful to walk wisely, is to bring up his children in the discipline (training with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior) and instruction (“admonition, warning, exhortation . . . which leads to correct behavior”¹⁰) of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Love God, listen to His Word, and teach His commands to your children all the time.

Proverbs also speaks of discipline and instruction in God’s Word for raising children.

Who are verses 5-9 about?

Slaves and masters

Compare Ephesians and Colossians.

Slaves—Be obedient, respecting your master (sounds like instructions to wives)

This is to be done with sincerity of heart “as to Christ.”

Not only when the master is looking (eyeservice)¹¹ or just to please him (men-pleasers),¹² but pleasing the Lord.

Masters—They are not to threaten their slaves, but treat them kindly and with justice—not just when someone is looking, but as the heavenly Master would treat them. They’re to treat them as brothers in the Lord.

Ask about Jesus’ example.

Mark 10

The Son of Man came to serve and give His life as a ransom.

1 Peter 2

Jesus committed no sin and didn’t revile in return when He suffered. He’s an example for a servant with an unreasonable master.

If there is time, you can ask them to share what they learned from Philemon.

You might end this discussion by asking your group to consider how the body of Christ can function properly when all live according to these instructions.

Those in authority wisely loving those under their authority,
and those under authority respectfully submitting to it.

¹⁰ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G3559.

¹¹ W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:220.

¹² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, (electronic ed.) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK473.

EPHESIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10

Lesson focus

- Ephesians 6:10-24
- Standing firm in spiritual warfare

REVIEW

It's good for your students to try to remember the flow of thought in the segments of Ephesians (this was in Lesson 1). Ask how much they remember.

1:3-14	Blessings and riches "in Him"
1:15-23	Paul's prayer for the saints at Ephesus
2	Gentile believers saved by grace and in the body Two in one new body, Jew and Gentile in the church
3:1-13	Paul explained the mystery
3:14-21	Another of Paul's prayers for them
4	Therefore, walk in a manner worthy of your calling Walk no longer as Gentiles
5:1-21	Walk in love, light, as wise men
5:22-33	Husbands and wives The mystery, Christ and the church
6:1-9	Children, fathers, slaves, masters
6:10-17	Armor of God
6:18-20	Paul tells Ephesians to pray and to pray for him
6:21-24	Paul's circumstances and closing remarks

Using their At A Glance charts as a visual aid, briefly discuss the chapter themes.

- 1— Blessings and riches in Him/ Prayer
- 2— Gentiles in the body by grace
- 3— Paul revealed the mystery/ Prayed
- 4— Walk in a manner worthy, no longer as Gentiles
- 5— Walk in love, light, wisdom/ Husbands and wives
- 6— Stand firm, put on God's armor, pray

EPHESIANS 6

Verses 10-12

What are these verses about?

Paul again tells about the strength of the Lord.
Here he commands believers to be strong in Him and the strength of His might.
Relate this to the first prayer in Ephesians.

The next instruction is to put on the whole armor of God.

The reason is to stand against the devil's schemes ("trickery").¹

"Stand firm" is *histemi* which can mean to literally stand on physical feet or, as in this case, to figuratively stand fast on God's Word against the enemy.²

Then he describes a spiritual battle.
Believers need to remember this truth. Their struggle is not against people, but the spiritual forces controlling the people. Relate this to Ephesians 2:1-3.

There are rulers, authorities, powers over the present darkness. Remind your group of what they studied about light and darkness.

There are spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
Remind your group of what all believers have in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1.

Ask your group what they learned about the devil. Understanding who he is can help understand what some of his schemes are.

John 8:44

A murderer and a liar

The father of lies

Lies and deceit are some of his most effective tools.

1 Peter 5

A roaring lion seeking someone to devour

Matthew 4

The tempter

He even used Scripture to tempt Jesus. Therefore, it's important that believers know the Scripture "in context" and know the "whole" of Scripture.

¹ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G3180.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2476.

John 12

Ruler of this world

1 John 5:19

The whole world, unbelievers, lies in his power.

Ephesians 2:2

“The prince of the power of the air.” He’s the one working in the sons of disobedience, unbelievers. He uses them to war against believers or tempt believers to sin.

But believers’ struggle (“wrestling”³) with the devil is not with flesh and blood people in their lives. It’s against the devil’s associates in the heavenlies.

Ask your group what they learned about the struggle / wrestling.

Acts 19

When Paul took the gospel to Ephesus, there were evil spirit inhabiting some people. Some people were practicing magic. But Paul still spoke the gospel, and some were saved as a result. They burned their magic books, showing their repentance.

Idol worship of Artemis led to a riot.

1 Corinthians 10

There are demons associated with idols.

The devil is the ruler of the demons and/ or evil heavenly rulers, powers, world forces, and spirits.

Revelation 12 and Daniel 10

World forces of darkness in battle with Michael and other angelic beings from God.

Colossians 2:13-15 and 1 Peter 3:21-22

There is no need for Christians to fear those demonic beings. Jesus triumphed over them at the cross. He disarmed them for believers. Those powers are subject to Him.

Ephesians 1:20-23 and 2:6

Believers are seated with Him in the heavenly places.

What does giving the devil an opportunity mean in Ephesians 4:27? How does that happen?

³Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G3823.

When a believer sins, it gives the devil an opportunity (“a place” or “position”⁴; “occasion for acting”⁵) to tempt him further to sin.

Verses 13-20

Ask your group what they learned about God’s armor. Tell them to look at the diagram in the lesson of the soldier.

“Full armor” means “a complete set of instruments used in . . . warfare.”⁶

In verse 13, Paul states a command to take up the full armor of God.

Then he lists the parts of the armor as participles relating to the command to stand firm.

While discussing each piece of the armor, also discuss cross-references, word definitions and relevant application.

Having girded your loins with truth (ESV—having fastened on the belt of truth)

The truth is the basis for standing firm against the devil’s schemes of deception.

Studying God’s Word is the way to arm oneself with the truth.

The message of the truth is the gospel of salvation, because truth is found in Jesus. The believer’s new self was created in righteousness and holiness of the truth, and truth will be the fruit of children of Light—in the likeness of their Father, just as lies and deception are the fruit of Satan, the father of lies.

Jesus prayed for believers that they would be kept from the evil one (the father of lies) sanctified (set apart) in the truth, God’s Word (John 17:14-17).

In Hosea’s day, God’s people were being destroyed for their lack of knowledge of the truth of His Word. They rejected it, and their children suffered the consequences. Let your group discuss if this is happening today.

Having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Jesus took on men’s sins so that those who believe become righteousness in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Then believers are to practice righteousness on a daily basis (1 John 3:7-10). The new self is created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Righteousness is based on truth.

⁴James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). GGK5536.

⁵James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). G5117.

⁶J. P. Louw and E. A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989), vol. 1, p. 56.

Know the truth and live accordingly—that combats the devil’s lies, accusations, and temptations. Revelation 12:10 calls the devil the accuser of our brethren.

Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

(ESV—as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace)

Gospel means “good news.” It’s good news of peace.
Peace with God and peace with other believers.

Paul spoke this mystery of peace with God through Christ, who broke down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile, making them into one new man, thus establishing peace between them.

The soldier had to stand firm on his feet. If peace of the gospel is what one stands on, then it’s a firm foundation.

Jesus died for our sins and was raised on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). He conquered sin and death, rendering the devil powerless (Hebrews 2:14-17). Help your group connect this with redemption in Ephesians 1:7. The price, the wages, for sin has been paid. As was seen in a previous lesson, Romans 6 says we’re no longer slaves to sin.

Believers can stand on these truths of the gospel.

Taking / take up the shield of faith

The purpose of a shield is to protect from whatever the enemy throws at you. A believer’s shield of faith extinguishes all the devil’s flaming arrows / darts.

Believing what God says extinguishes the devil’s lies.
Knowing and living the truth is the result.

Do away with speculations and anything raised up against the knowledge of God. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Take the helmet of salvation

A helmet protects the head. One thinks with one’s head.
We are to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
The hope of salvation is protection against the devil’s power.

Isaiah 59:17 describes Jesus with a helmet of salvation on His head, coming to recompense His enemies.

And the sword of the Spirit

The truth of God’s Word is essential for standing firm against the devil.
Jesus used this when He was tempted by the devil in Matthew 4.

Know God's Word and use it appropriately when confronted by the devil's schemes.

Revelation 19:15 describes Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, coming to judge. He has a sharp sword coming from His mouth, with which He will strike the nations.

Ask what your group learned about prayer and how it relates to the armor.

Paul told the Ephesian believer what he prayed for them in 1:15-23 and 3:14-21. Was he not requesting things to help them stand firm? He prayed for them to know certain truths of salvation.

In Ephesians 6 he called them to pray for each other, for all the saints, and for him. He said to be alert in prayer—watchful for the other saints, to pray for them. Perseverance is another trait for prayer.

Pray “in the Spirit”—prayer initiated and led by God's Holy Spirit.

Again, you might remind your group to pray for each other the prayers in Ephesians 1 and 3—as/ if led by the Spirit to do so.

Verses 21-24

Ask how Tychicus can be an example.

A beloved brother
A faithful minister in the Lord

Acts 19 and 20

He accompanied Paul during some of his journey through Macedonia. Perhaps he joined Paul at some time in Ephesus.

Paul sent Onesimus (the slave in Philemon) and Tychicus to Colossae to encourage the brethren there. He was called again a beloved brother and faithful servant, but also a fellow bond-servant.

He was sent by Paul to Crete to take Titus's place when Titus went to Paul. Was he to be the teacher there?

2 Timothy was Paul's last letter just before he died.
The last place he sent Tychicus was back to Ephesus.
Was he to lead the church there? Did he come from the beginning of that church?

It seems that he grew in the Lord under Paul's leadership, and then was found faithful to be sent as his representative.

In Ephesians Paul sent him with news about them and to comfort the hearts of the believers in Ephesus.

Paul ended with peace and grace, as he began, and also love with faith.

If you have time, ask your group what they've learned from this study of Ephesians that applies to their lives. Give time for them to share.