

## **Ephesians Bible Studies – Group Members Copy**

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The following 10 studies are looking at the key themes of Ephesians and how we can apply these themes to our lives today. As you go through the series think:

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about the people in the passage?
- And how can we apply what we learn to ourselves as individuals and as part of the body of Christ?

The first study is on Acts 19 to help give us context for Ephesians.

### **Biblical Background of Ephesians and the lead up to Acts 19**

In the beginning, God created the world. The world he created was good. In Genesis 1:26, God said “Let us make mankind in our image ...”. Us? God is Trinity; equal and perfectly one, but three persons, with different roles. “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). Humans lived directly in God’s presence in the Garden of Eden, in harmony with each other and with creation. However, in Genesis 3, the serpent (Satan), tempted Adam and Eve to eat from the tree God had commanded them not to eat from. As a result, humans were kicked out of the garden (out of God’s direct presence), and sin had entered the world as well as death, the punishment for sin. All relationships then became more difficult: between God and people; each other; and people and creation.

In Genesis 3:15 we see the first sign of hope, that God has not forgotten about the people he made. Evil will be defeated. But in Genesis 4-11 we see a continual repeat of Genesis 3, humans sinning and God punishing them. At the tower of Babel, humanity decides to build a tower to the heavens, to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11). But the Lord confused their languages and scattered them. In effect, God here creates the nations.

But how is God going to reverse the effects of the fall in Genesis 3? In Genesis 12:1-3 God makes promises to Abraham:

- To give Abraham’s descendants land
- To make his descendants into a great nation
- To make Abraham’s name great
- Bless his descendants and through them all the world

So Abraham is promised land, descendants to be blessed and to be a blessing to all nations. What has Abraham done to deserve this? Nothing. As God promised, Abraham has descendants, who due to famine, then go to Egypt. In Egypt, over many generations, they become as numerous as the stars in the sky. Pharaoh sees them as a threat and enslaves them and oppresses them. God hears the cries of his people and sends many signs and wonders to convince Pharaoh to let his people go to worship him. Finally, God sends death to all the firstborn in Egypt but saves the Israelite firstborn by the sacrifice of a lamb at Passover. The Israelites are saved from Egypt and Moses leads them to Mount Sinai, where they again are in God’s presence.

At Mount Sinai, God tells the people to obey Him; that they are to be “my treasured possession”, “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:4-6). He will take them to the land he promised Abraham and there they will live under his Law and be an example to the nations. He also commands Moses to make a tabernacle, in which God’s presence will dwell and lead them to the land. God teaches them how to be holy and be acceptable to him through sacrifices for sin.

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Initially, though the first generation rejects God by sinning. Even Moses sins and won't be allowed to enter the Promised Land. God lets them wander in the wilderness until all that generation are dead (except Joshua and Caleb) and then they enter the Promised Land. God had asked them to kill all the people in the land because of their sin and because of the influence they would have over Israel due to their idolatry and evil practices. They partially obey God but many people are left in the land.

God's people then ask for a king, but God is their king! God allows this and the king they choose (Saul) is a failure. Saul is replaced by David, as God's choice of king. God promises David that his line will be eternal and reign forever (2 Samuel 7). In fact, he promises David that he, God, will be his father, and he, David, will be his son (2 Samuel 7:14). David makes his capital in Jerusalem. But David also sins. Solomon becomes king and builds a Temple for the Lord, which God's presence enters. Solomon is given wisdom and Israel is blessed and the nations come to hear about God and are blessed in turn.

However, Solomon has many foreign wives; is influenced by them to worship other gods and is overcome by greed for great wealth (all warned about in Deuteronomy). Because of this, God will split the nation in two. The ten tribes in the north will be called Israel and have Samaria as its capital. The two tribes in the south (Judah and Benjamin), will be called Judah (Jews) and have Jerusalem as its capital. They will be God's chosen people.

The northern tribe set up their own sites to worship God, against God's commands, and worship idols. God sends them many prophets to call them to repent but they reject these messages. Ultimately, God sends the nation of Assyria to destroy Israel.

A similar pattern occurs in Judah. The people disobey God by worshipping idols and neglecting the poor. To God, his relationship with his people is like a marriage. But when his people follow other gods, to him, this is like adultery. God sends the Babylonians to punish them. But the Jews think because they are God's people, he will protect them. God would never let Jerusalem fall and the Temple be destroyed, would he? He does. Many are killed, but many Jews go into exile in Babylon. There they cry out to God. God sends the Persians to conquer the Babylonians and the Persians allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the walls and rebuild the Temple. It is a poor copy of the original. But this is not what God ultimately intends.

The problem is sin. How will God solve this problem so that his people can once again be united with him in his direct presence like in the Garden of Eden? Jeremiah 31:31-34 tells us. God will make with us a new covenant in which he will write his law on our hearts and put his Holy Spirit in our hearts. Through this new covenant, we'll be able to enter God's presence in heaven, as part of the new creation. This new covenant will be inaugurated through a divine warrior or Messianic figure, who will defeat sin, death and evil.

Jesus comes from the line of David, he is the Messiah. Throughout his life, Jesus shows us through his perfect obedience and by the power of his miraculous deeds, that he is God. To pay the price for our sins, someone must die. Jesus takes this on himself and dies on the cross in our place. God also shows his power over death by raising Jesus to life again. By doing this Jesus defeats evil once and for all. Now those who accept Jesus will be able to enter his presence and live with him eternally, in heaven.

God's people now have the mission of telling the world about salvation through what Jesus has done. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says once the Holy Spirit has come on you, you are to "be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit promised with the new covenant, comes on God's people and now they speak in languages that others can understand. This is a reversal of Babel and the beginning of the spread of the Gospel.

Many Jews and many Gentiles believe. This creates a dilemma for the early church. How can the Gentiles be God's people? Don't they need to be Jewish? The council of Jerusalem in Acts 15, inspired by the Holy Spirit, determine that to be part of God's people is about believing in Jesus, not about being Jewish. But because of their background and the influence evil can have on God's people, the council recommends that Gentiles stay away from idols and sexual immorality.

Miraculously, Jesus also appears to a man named Paul, who was a Pharisee and persecuted the Christian church. He is converted when Jesus appears to him on the road to Damascus and becomes the Apostle\* to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). He is to be one of the key people that God will use to build his church. The mission of Israel has now become the mission of the church: to bring the nations to God. The book of Ephesians is all about how the church fits into God's plan.

The church in Ephesus was established on Paul's return from his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21). A year later Paul returned and stayed in Ephesus for 3 years (Acts 19:1-20). Later Paul met with the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:16-38) and eventually sent Timothy to teach them (1 Tim 1:3).

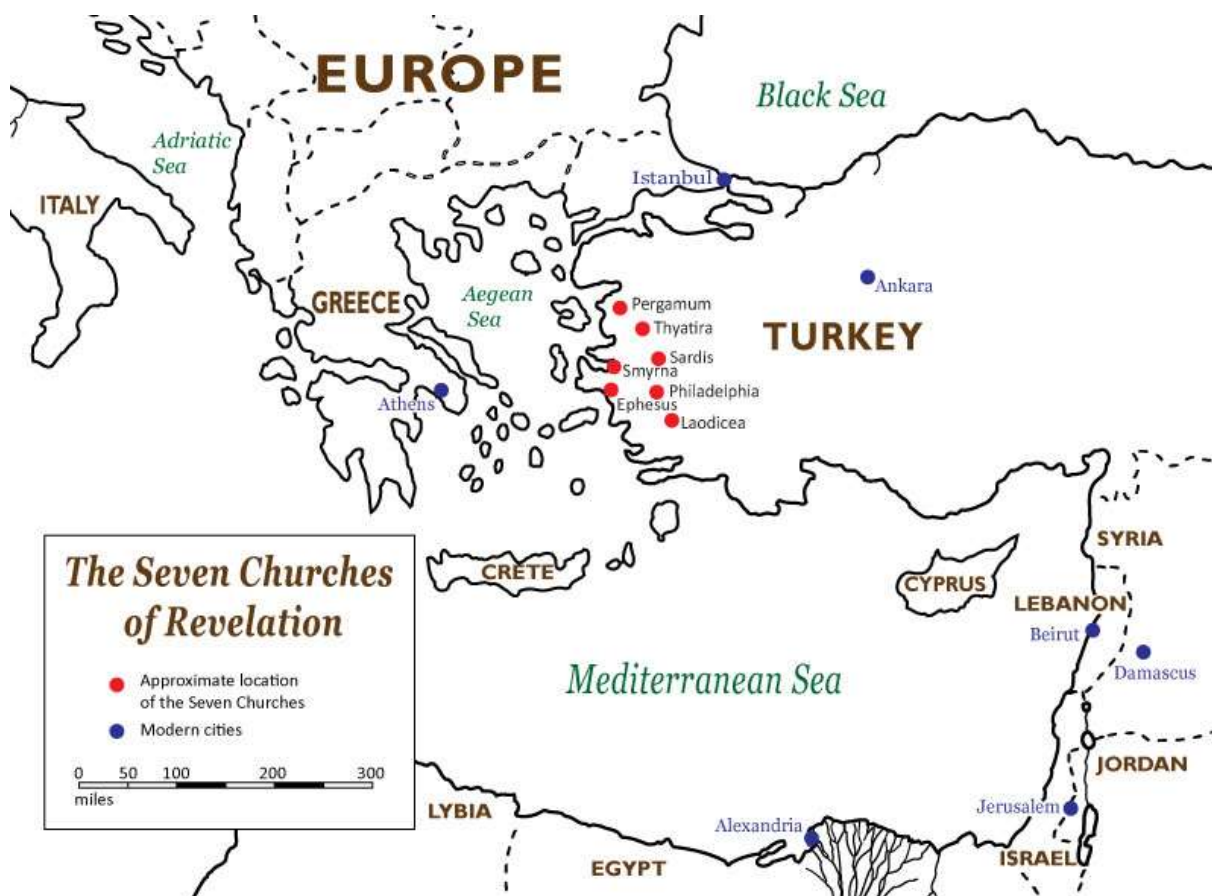
It is likely that Paul wrote Ephesians a few years after this while he was in prison in Rome (early 60's AD). The church at Ephesus is also mentioned in Revelation 2:1-7.

\*Apostle is defined as someone who has personally seen the risen Lord Jesus

## Study 1 – Acts 19 Introduction to Ephesians

### Ephesus the Place

Ephesus was a very important and strategic city in the ancient world. It was a key port on the Mediterranean Sea and the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Also, it was part of the key route from Rome to the east. Ephesus contained the huge temple to the goddess Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The Ephesians saw themselves as the guardians of the goddess and the temple was much more than a place of worship. Thus Ephesus was an important trade, commercial and religious centre. Although part of the Roman Empire, Ephesus was a free Greek city, under its own rule.



1. In Acts 19, Paul gives four pictures of ministry in Ephesus. Let's look at each one in turn.

- 19:1-7 Paul meets disciples of John the Baptist
- 19:8-10 Paul teaches in the synagogue and the hall of Tyrannus
- 19:11-22 Magic in Ephesus
- 19:23-41 The riot in Ephesus

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### Read Acts 19:1-7 – Paul meets disciples of John the Baptist

2. What other passages in Acts does this remind you of?
3. What is significant about Acts 2, 8 and 10? What is their connection to Acts 1:8?
4. Explain what is similar in Acts 19 to those previously mentioned passages and why?

### Speaking in Tongues in the Book of Acts

| Passage       | Tongue-Speakers                        | Audience   | Related to Salvation       | Purpose   |
|---------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| Acts 2:1-4    | The 12 Apostles and others (Jews)      | Unsaved Jews   | After salvation            | To validate (for Jews) the fulfilment of Joel 2       |
| Acts 8:15-17  | Samaritans                             | Saved Jews (Peter and John)                          | After salvation            | To validate (for Jews) God's acceptance of Samaritans |
| Acts 10:44-47 | Gentiles (Cornelius and his household) | Saved Jews (Peter and others) who doubted God's plan | The same time as salvation | To validate (for Jews) God's acceptance of Gentiles   |
| Acts 19:1-7   | About 12 Old Testament believers       | Jews who needed confirmation of the message          | The same time as salvation | To validate (for Jews) Paul's message                 |

### Read Acts 19:8-10 – Paul teaches in the synagogue and the hall of Tyrannus

5. Paul first taught in the synagogue but when the Jews rejected his message, he then went to teach in a secular location, making his message more readily available for Gentiles. He taught there every day for two years. As a result, "all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." (Acts 19:10)

### Read Acts 19:11-22 – Magic in Ephesus

6. What evidence is there for the genuineness of the conversion of many people in Ephesus?
7. As a Christian, what have you given up or how have you changed? What do you struggle with? What evidence helps you to see that those around you are Christians?

### **Read Acts 19:23-41 – The riot in Ephesus**

8. What do we learn about the prevalence of idols in Ephesus?
  
9. What is idolatry? What are some of the idols in our culture today? Why, or why not, is this relevant to our secular society today?
  
10. What is the weakness and power of idols?
  
11. How do we smash idols?
  
12. What is the cost of smashing idols?
  
13. What things do you or have you put before Jesus? How do you fight against this?

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## Study 2 – Every Spiritual Blessing (Ephesians 1:1-14)

### Ephesians Overview

Before we start the next nine Bible studies on the book of Ephesians, it would be helpful to get a good overview of where we are going. The Bible Project does this well. Have a look:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

### **The Structure of the book of Ephesians**

Understanding the structure of a book can help you see where it is going.

The letter neatly divides into two halves:

- Chapters 1-3 focuses on **doctrine (what we believe and why we should do things)**
  - *Paul proclaims God's cosmic plan to unite everything under Christ (chapter 1)*
  - *by reconciling us to God and each other by his death and resurrection (chapter 2)*
  - *through the proclamation of the revealed mystery of the Gospel of Christ crucified for all nations, which is displayed in the spiritual realms in the church (chapter 3)*
- Chapters 4-6 focuses on **church practice (what we should do)**
  - *Paul calls us to respond by preserving our unity under Christ. This is done by continuing to gather people under Christ by preparing each other for ministry, growing in maturity, and speaking the truth in love (chapter 4)*
  - *in order to be made new in our minds and living distinctive Christ-honouring lives in the church, in the home and at work (chapter 5)*
  - *The climactic finale of the letter calls readers to stand firm in the armour God has given them in the Gospel against the lies of Satan, which threaten to divide us from God and from each other; and to keep on praying in the Spirit for world mission – which is the victory in spiritual warfare in our churches (chapter 6)*

Remember Paul is writing this letter to Christians, yet he devotes the first three chapters to telling them what the Gospel is.

There are forty-one commands in Ephesians: one in the first three chapters ('remember') and forty on chapters 4 to 6. So these last three chapters teach us how to live.

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### Bible Study – Read Ephesians 1:1-14

Sometimes being a Christian can seem pretty ordinary. That's why the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus is such a great part of the Bible. When we read Ephesians our eyes are opened to the awe-inspiring dimensions of what God has done for us in Christ.

1. There are twelve different titles for Jesus in Ephesians (Christ Jesus; Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ; Lord Jesus; Christ; Christ Jesus our Lord; Jesus; Son of God; Lord; One; Master and Saviour). Each title communicates different things. In verses 1 and 2 we see two of these titles: Christ Jesus and Lord Jesus Christ. What point do you think the author is trying to make?
2. What do we learn about Paul from the first two verses?
3. What are the two great blessings for Christian's (also two key themes) introduced in verses 1 and 2? What do they mean?
4. What are the key different roles in our salvation played by each member of the Trinity?
5. What is God's purpose for those he chooses (v4)?
6. Where in the Old Testament do we see the ideas of election (vv4-5) and redemption (v7)?
7. If you are predestined, does it matter what you do (how you live)?
8. In looking at verse 10, what is the central message of Ephesians?
9. What are some of the spiritual blessings mentioned in this passage? Why are these important?
10. Why are we given all the blessings in verses 3 to 14?
11. What do you think it means to be 'in Christ' (mentioned 15 times in the first 14 verses)?
12. Jesus is the ultimate example. But is that helpful or discouraging ('I can never be like Jesus')? How can Jesus help us?

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### Study 3 – Thanksgiving and Prayer (Ephesians 1:15-23)

1. What things are you afraid of?

The passage today is the first of two prayers Paul prays for the Ephesians.

#### **Read Ephesians 1:15-23**

2. What is the basis of Paul's expression of gratitude in verses 15 and 16?
3. What is his 'incomparably great power' (v19)?
4. What is the supreme use of God's power (v20)?
5. So what does Paul pray for us in verse 17, 18 and 19? Why?
6. What does the passage say about Jesus?
7. How are we, the church, connected to Jesus?

#### **How Christ and the Church are related throughout Ephesians**

| <b>Description</b>  | <b>Passage</b>                   |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Christ is the head of the church  | 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23;             |
| Christ is the cornerstone of the church                                       | 2:20                             |
| Christ is the Saviour and sanctifier of the church                            | 5:23, 26-27                      |
| Christ gives the church ministry workers                                      | 4:11-16                          |
| Christ loved and sacrificed himself for the church                            | 5:25                             |
| Christ nourishes and cherishes the church                                     | 5:29                             |
| The church and her members dwell and grow in Christ                           | 2:21-22; 4:15                    |
| The church is a means through which God manifests his manifold wisdom         | 3:10                             |
| The church submits to Christ  | 5:24                             |
| The church is Christ's body, and individual believers are members of his body | 1:22-23; 3:6; 4:4, 16; 5:23, 30; |

8. How do the ideas of great power and being connected to Jesus effect our lives?

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### **Study 4 – Alive and One in Christ (Ephesians 2)**

1. As Christians, who are we reconciled to?

The first part of Ephesians 2 (verse 1 to 10), can be broken up into three pieces:

- The life we were saved from vv1-3
- How do we get from the old life to the new life? vv4-7
- The life God wants to save you for vv8-10

#### **Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

2. What does Paul say we were like? Why does he mention this?
3. How do we get from the old life to the new life?
4. Verses 8 to 10 is a great summary of the Gospel. What does God want us to do?

#### **Read Ephesians 2:11-22**

Here Paul describes how hopeless our situation was without Christ (vv11-12) but now because of God's grace (v13), God has completely transformed our situation in Christ (vv13-22).

5. What separated the Gentiles (us) from God? Vv11-12. This is prior to salvation.
6. How have Gentiles become part of God's people?
7. What was the dividing barrier between Jews and Gentiles? Vv14-16
8. What is different about what is happening here and what happened in the Old Testament when Gentiles joined Israel eg Rahab?
9. What metaphors does Paul use to describe our new status in Christ?

10. Which of the six metaphors made the biggest impact on you? Why? How do you think these metaphors promote peace and unity?
  
11. It has been established that Jesus is our peace (v14) by making us one new humanity. In question one in talked about being reconciled to God and each other. Are there relationships you need to reconcile?

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### **Study 5 – Now ... through the church (Ephesians 3)**

1. For those of you who are Christians, how have you changed since becoming a Christian?

Here Paul starts to make a point in verse 1, but then goes off on a tangent to make clear another point: He is a prisoner of Christ for their sakes. So verse 1 to 13 explain why this is not a bad thing. He comes back to his point in verse 14 where he prays for the church. He explains in verses 2 to 5 to whom God revealed his glorious mystery, in verse 6 what that mystery is, and in verses 7 to 9 why this mystery must now be proclaimed to all the nations, whatever the cost.

#### **Read Ephesians 3:1-13**

Paul makes himself an example.

2. What is the mystery of verse 3, 4, 6, and 9?
3. Why does Paul say he is 'the least of all the Lord's people'? v8
4. How do the 'rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms' know the wisdom of God? Vv10-11
5. So why does Paul go off on this tangent?
6. Does Paul's example excite you or discourage you?

#### **Read Ephesians 3:14-21**

Here Paul resumes the prayer he started in verse 1. He kneels.

7. What does Paul ask his father to give his children?
8. Power through what?
9. Power for what?

10. How would you describe 'how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God' v18?
  
11. From the passage what hints do you see as to how you get this power? What are the implications of this in your life?

### Study 6 – Unity in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16)

1. What do you have in common with other Christians?

As a recap, we have just completed studies on chapters 1 to 3.

- Chapters 1-3 focuses on **doctrine (what we believe and why we should do things)**
  - *Paul proclaims God's cosmic plan to unite everything under Christ (chapter 1)*
  - *by reconciling us to God and each other by his death and resurrection (chapter 2)*
  - *through the proclamation of the revealed mystery of the Gospel of Christ crucified for all nations, which is displayed in the spiritual realms in the church (chapter 3)*

Now we are about to start looking at chapters 4 to 6.

- Chapters 4-6 focuses on **church practice (what we should do)**
  - *Paul calls us to respond by preserving our unity under Christ. This is done by continuing to gather people under Christ by preparing each other for ministry, growing in maturity, and speaking the truth in love (chapter 4)*
  - *in order to be made new in our minds and living distinctive Christ-honouring lives in the church, in the home and at work (chapter 5)*
  - *The climactic finale of the letter calls readers to stand firm in the armour God has given them in the Gospel against the lies of Satan, which threaten to divide us from God and from each other; and to keep on praying in the Spirit for world mission – which is the victory in spiritual warfare in our churches (chapter 6)*

### **Read Ephesians 4:1-16**

This passage looks at how churches grow and are unified. Gathering people under Christ is central to the purposes of the church because it displays the wisdom of God and glorifies God.

4:1 is a good summary of the second half of the book: chapters 1 to 3 sum up our 'calling' and sets up chapters 4 to 6 as a 'worthy life' in response to chapters 1 to 3.

2. What three attitudes are needed to lead a life worthy of our calling (v2)?
3. What is the key point of verses 3 to 6?
4. How is Christian unity described?
5. What description of unity speaks most to you? Why?

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6. What is critical to this unity (v3)? What does this mean?

7. We see the Trinity working together, in unity, throughout the book of Ephesians:

| <b>Passage</b> | <b>God the Father</b>                               | <b>God the Son</b>              | <b>God the Holy Spirit</b>                               |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1:13-14        | We are God's possession                             | We are in Christ                | We are sealed by the Holy Spirit                         |
| 1:17           | The glorious God the Father gives                   | God is Christ's God             | The Holy Spirit is given to know him better              |
| 2:18-22        | We are citizens and members of the household of God | Our foundation is Jesus Christ  | We are built together by the Holy Spirit                 |
| 3:14-17        | We are to kneel before the Father and pray          | So that Christ will dwell in us | With power through the Holy Spirit                       |
| 4:4-6          | One God and Father                                  | One Lord                        | One Spirit   |
| 5:18-20        | We are to give thanks to God for all                | In Jesus' name                  | Being filled with the Spirit and singings songs from him |
| 6:10-18        | Put on the full armour of God                       | Be strong in the Lord           | And use the sword of the Spirit (the word of God)        |

8. What is verse 8 talking about?

9. From verse 11, what is another key to unity (see verses 11 to 13)?

10. What is the 'body' metaphor in verse 12 and 16 trying to say?

11. What is the balance we need from verse 15?

12. What are the characteristics of a mature Christian?

13. How can we apply what we have learnt from this passage?

To sum up. The three marks of a healthy church are:

- Spiritual unity, we are all one (vv1-6)
- Spiritual diversity, we have different roles (vv7-12)
- Spiritual maturity, we are all heading in the same direction, to understand and be more like Christ (vv13-16)

### Study 7 – Living as Children of Light (Ephesians 4:17-5:21)

1. What motivates Christian people?

#### **Read Ephesians 4:17-32**

By serving one another, we change one another. The prayers in chapter 1 and chapter 3 emphasise our access to power, but it is as we apply and discipline ourselves for godliness, drawing on 'his great power' (1:19), that we see personal growth and change. Believers are called to live out their new identity in Christ with a lifestyle that is different from the world and different from their pre-Christian past.

The passage can be split up into three parts:

- 4:17-19 don't live in ignorance anymore (in light of what has been said in chapters 1 to 3)
- 4:20-24 because you have come to know Christ
- 4:25-32 how to put off the old self and put on the new self

2. What words describe the Ephesian's former lives vv17-19?
3. Verses 22 to 24 talk about putting off the old self and putting on the new self. What does this mean?
4. How should we live vv25-32?
5. What is the motivation in dealing with your anger v27? What do you think the outcome of not dealing with your anger is?

#### **Read Ephesians 4:32-5:21**

The passage can be split up into four parts:

- 5:1-2 live a life of love
  - 5:3-7 don't live in sin anymore
  - 5:8-14 because you have come from darkness to light
  - 5:15-21 live a wise life
6. What are the key motivations to unlocking the power of God?

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7. What two warnings does Paul give for those not living God's way?
8. Does this mean that a Christian who sins in one of these ways is no longer a Christian?
9. In what ways is a greedy person an idolater v5?
10. How can we reconcile Paul's serious warnings about God's wrath with his confidence in God's grace?
11. How does Paul compare being drunk and having the Holy Spirit v18?
12. So what do you think are the key aspects of how we learn to live like Christ?
13. What does it mean to be full of the Spirit 5:18-21? (1:23; 3:19)
14. How can you apply what you have learnt from this passage to your own life?

### **Study 8 – Out of Reverence for Christ – Part One (Ephesians 5:21-33)**

It is important to remember in living as a Christian the time you live in history. You are in the overlap of the ages. Jesus has come and defeated sin, death and evil, permanently. So his victory is guaranteed. However, we are not in heaven yet, in a place where there is no sin, no suffering, and no hardship. We live in a world where there is still sin, suffering, evil and death. There is tension.

Please note, this Bible Study focuses on the key principles of what it should look like in marriage when a husband and wife follow God's commands. There will be opportunity towards the end to discuss when things are not like this. If this study brings up any issues for you please talk to a friend or counsellor.

#### **Read Genesis 1:26-28**

1. How do you think people are like the Trinity?

#### **Read Genesis 2:20b-24**

2. What do we learn about marriage from this passage?

#### **Read Ephesians 5:21-33**

Ephesians 5:21 is like a topic sentence for the section (5:21-6:9). Here we see three sets of relationships, each one with an example of submission.

3. What example is given to wives as to why they should submit to their husbands (5:22-24)?
4. Do you think there are any conditions around this passage?
5. How is the role of a wife like that of Jesus?
6. What do you think Ephesian society understood as the role of the head and the body?
7. How does Paul twist this metaphor when he talks about Christian marriage?

8. What 6 actions do we see Jesus Christ doing for the church?
9. How is the husband to model Christ in marriage?
10. What does this look like?
11. What other understanding of marriage helps make this easier for the husband? See verses 29, 31.
12. Why do you think the passage talks a lot more about husbands than wives?
13. What happens when things go wrong?

In marriage both men and women play a Jesus type role:

- Wives – sacrificial submission
- Husbands – sacrificial authority

14. How can we encourage each other from what we have learnt from this passage?

### **Study 9 – Out of Reverence for Christ – Part Two (Ephesians 6:1-9)**

From our last study and this one, we see that every member of an extended household is addressed. This is because in Christ, everyone has equal dignity and importance.

At the time of Paul writing this, it is estimated that one third of the Ephesian population was slaves.

#### **Read Ephesians 6:1-9**

1. How are children to treat parents? Does this matter if you are an adult child?
2. What are the two challenges for a father v4?
3. What is the right balance as a parent in disciplining children?
4. How are slaves to behave?
5. Why should slaves do this?
6. Does this apply now to a modern day work force? Why or why not?
7. What do you think the results would be if you worked like this?
8. How are masters to behave?
9. Why are masters to behave like this?
10. How do you feel about how Paul has chosen to tackle the issue of slavery?
11. How can you apply what has been taught in this passage?

### **Study 10 – The Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-24)**

This text summarises the whole of Ephesians. It portrays the church as a community of 'divine warriors' who continue Christ's mission by extending the new creation inaugurated by his sacrificial death and resurrection.

#### **Read Ephesians 6:10-24**

There are three things we need in battle:

- We need God's strength vv10-12
- We need God's armour vv14-17
- We need to pray v18

1. What is the key thing God wants us to do?
2. What does that mean to you?
3. Who are we actually fighting against vv11-12?
4. What armour does God ask us to put on and what does it mean vv13-17? Choose a few to discuss.
5. The Ephesians had grown up in an extremely superstitious culture, terrified of Satan and demonic powers. What two errors can we commit in fighting Satan?
6. Satan's main weapons are temptation and accusation. Can you give examples of how he may use these weapons?
7. Prayer is given more attention than any one piece of armour. Why?
8. What does Paul ask prayer for?
9. How can this be a model for our own prayer life?
10. In Paul's final greeting he deliberately mentions three major blessings of God. What are they?

11. How have we seen love throughout Ephesians – it's in every chapter?
  
12. Paul's final greeting shows us his motivation for writing. How can you show encouragement, peace, love and grace to those around you? How has Ephesians helped you to do this?
  
13. So after the battle is over where do we end up? Read Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:1-5.
  
14. What have you learnt that has most encouraged you or challenged you from the book of Ephesians? Is there anything in particular that you have put in to practice that you'd like to share?