

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

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Ephesians Group Leader's Discussion Guide (6 weeks)

Overview:

This guide is designed to help you start conversations around Scripture! Each week you will discuss one chapter of Ephesians. We recommend that all group members follow the YouVersion Bible Plan and to interact with their group as they go through it! Depending on each person's background of Bible knowledge and experience doing Bible study, you will get a variety of depth during group discussion. The questions and content in this guide are designed to help you guide someone with any level of understanding and preparation to be able to engage with the Living Word and walk away with an application to put the Word into practice.

We encourage you to do the YouVersion Bible plan each week for yourself first. Then, take some time to prepare for facilitating a conversation: look over that week's guide, identify key verses and words from the chapter, look at the chapter with the eyes of someone who has never read it before. Ask yourself: What questions would they have? What would be confusing? What do you see about God's character? What do you see about how we are called to live as Christians? [Blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) is a great resource (and app!) - you can look up commentaries and the meaning of words in the original language. Also, looking at different translations can be very helpful!

Remember, you are not expected to be an expert! Sometimes things will come up in conversation that the best response would be, "Let's do some research and discuss next week!" As the group leader, your goal is to encourage members to love the Word of God and to desire to study it. The best way to do that is to model it, and to ask questions. We made the questions part easy for you! We trust the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

Facilitating a 90 minute meeting

- Start with an icebreaker and time to build relationships (15-20 minutes)
 - The first few meetings, do an ice-breaker focused on fun and getting to know each other
 - After that, something like “highs and lows” provides an opportunity for deeper connection
- Go through the chapter with the guided questions (~45 minutes)
 - The guide each week starts with reading that chapter out loud as a group. This is a great way to get quiet people in your group to participate!
 - You can have one or several group members read the passage. (It doesn't have to be you. In fact, it's better if someone else reads!)
 - The chapters are broken up into smaller sections to help focus your group's attention around the passage.
 - Note: the sections might not always line up with how the Bible Reading plan splits the passage up - this is to help organize conversation in the group setting.
 - Encourage referencing their notes from their personal study based on the verses you're discussing!
 - Each week, the guide ends with “big ideas”. As you wrap up the conversation from that week, just recap by reading these points.
 - The big ideas are also a helpful way for you to know if your conversation is headed in the right direction!
- End the meeting with prayer requests & prayer (20 minutes)

Facilitating a table (onsite with Location Pastor)

- Spend the beginning 10-15 minutes connecting with your table. Build relationships.
 - If your table doesn't know each other, start with introductions and a fun ice-breaker.
 - Highs and lows from the week are an easy connection point!
 - Having food is always a good idea - encourage a pot luck to get your group involved.
- Location pastors: 15-20 min teaching
- Discussion for 30-40 using this leader's guide.
 - Start with highlights from the pastor's message to transition.
 - Feel free to edit or adapt the questions to help your group connect.
- Last 15-20 minutes: Prayer requests and pray

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 1: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-14
 - What is true about us in Christ?
 - How do these truths impact the way you view yourself and others?
 - What does it mean to live according to your identity in Christ?
- Verses 15-23
 - What do you observe about Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church in verses 15-23?
 - Why do you think Paul prayed for the eyes of the Ephesians' hearts to be enlightened?
 - How do you think Paul viewed God and His character from these verses?
 - What would change in your life if you viewed God this way?

Big ideas from Ephesians 1:

- 1. In Christ, we have been given many blessings**
- 2. Who we are in Christ is the most important thing about us**
- 3. We are given the Spirit and the power of God so that we can know God**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 2: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-10
 - What do you observe about being dead in sin?
 - What does it say about being alive in Christ?
 - Why do you think Ephesians 2:8-9 is a key verse in this passage?
 - Do you find yourself leaning more on works or on faith? How so?
 - What would you change to live more “by grace through faith” instead of by works?
- Verses 11-22
 - What do these verses say about unity in Christ?
 - Why do you think 2:19 is an important verse?
 - Why do you think it's important for believers to be unified and on the “same team”?

Big ideas from Ephesians 2:

- 1. We were once dead in sin**
- 2. We are now alive in Christ**
- 3. We are members of the household of God**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 3: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-6
 - What is the mystery Paul (the author of Ephesians) is talking about in verses 1-6?
 - Why do you think he refers to the Gospel as a mystery?
- Verses 7-13
 - What do you learn about Paul and his mission in these verses?
 - What is our mission, knowing that we are a part of the church (the body of Christ) Paul refers to in verse 10?
 - Why is verse 12 important, knowing our mission?
- Verses 14-21
 - What stands out to you most from Paul's prayer in these verses?
 - Why do you think each of these things he prays for is important for us as believers?
 - Why are verses 20-21 an important part of his prayer?
 - What are you believing God for? How does studying Paul's prayer change the way you pray about it?

Big ideas from Ephesians 3:

- 1. In Christ, we are members of the same body, fellow heirs, and partakers in the promise of God to his people**
- 2. We, as the church body, have a mission: to make God known**
- 3. We can be filled with the fullness of God**
- 4. God is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or think**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 4: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-7
 - What does the passage say about walking in a manner worthy of our calling? What are some other ways we can do this?
 - How are you personally growing in this area? / What is the Lord teaching you about it?
- Verses 8-16
 - What does this section tell us about unity within the Church?
 - Why do you think God made us all uniquely different? (What benefit is there in being different?)
 - What is an example of a Spiritual Gift you have and how have you used it to benefit the body of Christ?
- Verses 17-32
 - What does it mean to take off the old self and put on the new self? (What does the passage say we should take off? What does the passage say we should put on?)
 - How have you seen this in your life as you grow spiritually?

Big ideas from Ephesians 4:

- 1. We are to “walk” in a manner worthy of our calling**
- 2. We are uniquely gifted to SERVE the body of Christ/the Church**
- 3. Since we are new creations in Christ, we take off the old self and put on the new self**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 5: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-21
 - This chapter starts as a continuation of the thought from the end of chapter 4: talking about taking off the old self and putting on the new self. How do you see that thought continuing in this section?
 - Why do you think it is important for Christ-followers to “walk as children of light”? (v 8)
 - How are verses 15-21 the summary of the verses before? What big themes do you see in these verses?
- Verses 22-33
 - How is a husband a reflection of Christ? How is a wife a reflection of the Church? How have you seen these reflections distorted by culture?
 - Why do you think Paul (the author) and God gave us marriage as an example for our relationship with Christ?

Big ideas from Ephesians 5:

- 1. We are called to be imitators of God**
- 2. When we understand the will of the Lord, we look carefully at how we walk**
- 3. Marriage is a reflection of Christ and the Church**

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians 6: Group Leader's Guide

- Read the passage out loud as a group
 - What stood out to you from this chapter of Ephesians?
- Verses 1-9
 - What is the difference between eye-service and doing the will of God from the heart? (v 6)
 - Why do you think it's important to consider verses 7-8 in our daily lives as Christians? How does this perspective affect the way you work, serve, and relate with others?
- Verses 10-20
 - Why do we "take up the armor" according to these verses?
 - Which piece of armor stands out to you most?
 - Which piece of armor do you want to grow in? What is something you can do this week?

Big ideas from Ephesians 6:

- 1. As bondservants of Christ, we do the will of God from the heart**
- 2. We serve the Lord, not man**
- 3. We have been given the Armor of God to withstand the enemy**