

## **Lesson 1: Introduction—Background and Overview of Ephesus**

### **The Church at Ephesus (Acts 18b-20, Revelation 2)**

1. What were the circumstances of Paul's first time in Ephesus? Who was with him? How was the Gospel (and Paul) received at Ephesus? (Acts 18:18-23)
2. What significant character was teaching in Ephesus after Paul left? What do we learn about his character and ministry? How would you describe the fruitfulness of the Gospel in Ephesus during this period? (Acts 18:24-28)
3. When Paul returned to Ephesus, what issue immediately arose? How was this issue handled by the disciples in Ephesus? What does that show you about their character? How many disciples were there learning from and working with Paul? (Acts 19:1-7)
4. How did Paul conduct his ministry in Ephesus? How long did he work there? What were some of the results of the Gospel ministry in Ephesus? (Acts 19:8-20)
5. As Paul was planning to conclude his time in Ephesus, what opposition arose? Why did the opposition arise? How did God work out this dangerous situation? (Acts 19:23-41)
6. While on his travels gathering funds for the needy saints in Jerusalem (from primarily Gentile churches), did Paul stop in Ephesus? What was the reason for that decision? What do we learn about Paul's work from his conversation with the Ephesian elders? What do we learn about the church at Ephesus? What exhortations and warnings does he give? (Acts 20:17-38)
7. Years later, what do we learn about how the Ephesian church grew? (Revelation 2:1-7) What should the trajectory of the Ephesian church teach us?

### **The Letter to the Ephesians**

8. Read Ephesians all the way through in one sitting. (It should take around 15 minutes.) What do you see? What do you think are some of the major themes of the letter? What impressed you about the letter as a whole? (Don't get bogged down in details! Just let things stand out to you through a natural reading.)

## 9. Structure, Theme, Special Features

- a. **Structure:** Ephesians is divided into basically two halves (chapters 1-3 and 4-6). This structure seems to be stated in 4:1 which says: *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”* Chapters 1-3 are about **the Calling** of the Christian that God has issued to direct our lives. 4-6 then talk about **the Walk** of the Christian which grows out of our calling. These two are not the same thing, but rather one leads into the other. Without the calling (i.e. purpose, God’s work in us) etc.) our walk is aimless and will be extremely difficult to maintain. Without the walk (i.e. lifestyle, our work in God) the calling is just nice ideas or things that have happened that have no real meaning. Ephesians is one of the greatest blends of these two aspects of Christianity: the Calling God has issued to humanity, and the walk that should be our response. Grace and works, purpose and practice, God in us and us in God—all these Biblical themes that so many want to separate and prioritize are brought into beautiful harmony in the letter to the Ephesians.
- b. **Theme:** While 4:1 helps us see the structure for the letter, 3:20-21 is probably the best passage to see a summary of the central message of the letter. *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”* Ephesians is about **God’s power working in his people through Christ Jesus for the display of his glory.** Passages that support this theme statement / passage can be seen in 1:3,6,12,14; 1:18-23; 2:4-10; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 4:11-16; 4:20-24; 5:32-33; 6:10-12. Ephesians helps us focus in on what God is trying to do in and with us in the world (and universe!). After a study of this book, it is nearly impossible to not be changed by the weight and strength of our fellowship with God!
- c. **Special Features:** Ephesians contains some unique features and themes that support the structure and central theme.
  - i. The phrase “heavenly places” is found 5 times in Ephesians and nowhere else in the Scriptures. This book takes us to another, higher level with numerous references to the spiritual forces at work in the world and the place of God’s people in that cosmic drama.
  - ii. Jew-Gentile relations and the concept of unity in Christ is repeated theme throughout the letter. Perhaps this emphasis is due to Paul’s experiences in his later ministry and his focus, which seems to have been sparked while at Ephesus, on the intentional unification of these two groups which struggled to be the one Body that Jesus died to save.
  - iii. Ephesians has much to say, both conceptually and practically, about the nature and purpose of salvation. Some of the more powerful descriptions of God’s grace and its significance are found here.
  - iv. Like Colossians, there is heavy emphasis on the day-to-day character of Christians with explanations of how to develop that character and the reasoning behind it.

## **Lesson 2: “Blessed Be God” (Ephesians 1:1-14)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. How does Paul introduce himself at the beginning of this letter? How does he address his audience?
5. What one word in 1:3 stands out to you? What is said about this word in 1:3? How does this verse help you understand the section as a whole?
6. Using only this passage, answer the following questions.
  - a. **What** blessings does God give his people according to this text?
  - b. **How** does God grant these blessings according to this text? (Tip: Look for phrases that begin with: “in”, “according to”, etc.)
  - c. **Why** (i.e. for what purpose) are we blessed in these ways according to this text?
7. Define the following concepts from the text. What do they mean? (Feel free to use other passages from Scripture to support your answer(s))
  - a. “He predestined us” (1:5)
  - b. “we have redemption” (1:7)
  - c. “we were made a heritage (1:11)
  - d. “sealed...Holy Spirit...pledge of our inheritance” (1:13)
8. How should this passage impact the way we view our lives? What should change about the way we act or think because of this passage?
9. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. do you not understand from this section? (Write these down so that you will remember to bring them up in our class discussion!)

## **Ephesians 1:1-14 (American Standard Version)**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints that are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ: **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love: **5** having foreordained us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ unto himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of the glory of his grace, which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved: **7** in whom we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** making known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him **10** unto a dispensation of the fulness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things upon the earth; in him, I say, **11** in whom also we were made a heritage, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will; **12** to the end that we should be unto the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ: **13** in whom ye also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation,-- in whom, having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** which is an earnest of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, unto the praise of his glory.

### **Lesson 3: A Prayer for Saints (Ephesians 1:15-23)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that stand out to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
  
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
  
4. Why was Paul thankful for these saints? How serious does the text indicate that Paul was about praying for them (and about prayer in general)?
  
5. What is the overall point of focus of Paul's prayer here?
  
6. What three specific things did Paul pray concerning the heart-enlightenment of the saints at Ephesus?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  
7. What do these three things mean? What are they about?
  
8. How does the Gospel (as explained in 1:19b-23) reveal and help us understand these three concepts?
  - a. Hope
  - b. Inheritance
  - c. Power
  
9. What position does Christ now have? What position do we, his church, now have?
  
10. How should this passage inform the way we view our lives? What should change about the way we act or think because of this passage?
  
11. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. do you not understand from this section? (Write these down so that you will remember to bring them up in our class discussion!)

**Ephesians 1:15-23** (English Standard Version)

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Lesson 4: “And You Were...But God” (Ephesians 2:1-10)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. Immediately after finishing a description of the great power God worked in the Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus (1:19-23), how are we described in the beginning of this passage? Which of these pictures is the most striking to you? Why?
5. Why is it important for us to realize and remember where we were apart from Christ?
6. What does 2:1-3 teach you about the nature of the world in which we live?
7. How does the text go on to describe our change? What does the text say has happened? How has it happened?
8. What parallels do you see in Jesus (1:19-23) and us (2:1-7)? What significance may there be in this textual parallelism?
9. Why has God saved us? (NOTE: There are multiple reasons given in the text. Look for “because”, “that”, “so that”, “for”, etc. phrases.)
10. How should this passage inform the way we view our lives? What should change about the way we act or think because of this passage?
11. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. do you not understand from this section? (Write these down so that you will remember to bring them up in our class discussion!)

**Ephesians 2:1-10** (New King James Version)

**2** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



## **Lesson 5: One in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. Paul begins this section with "Therefore." What was discussed previously that the following teaching will be based upon?
5. Who is being addressed in this section? What was their condition apart from Christ?
6. What parallels do you see in 2:1-10 and 2:11-18?
7. What has Christ done that corrects the problem of racial / social division and animosity that has existed in our world for centuries because of sin? How does the text say that he has accomplished these things?
8. What metaphors are used in this text to describe the depth of Christian unity? How do these metaphors help you understand unity and our pursuit of it?
9. How does the Temple metaphor in 2:20-22 help us understand: 1) the basis of our unity? 2) the purpose of our unity?
10. What is the central focus of the unity in this text? How is this different from the world's approach to promoting, developing and maintaining unity among people groups?
11. Why do you think Christians struggle with unity? How can each of us personally grow in our understanding and practice of Christian unity?
12. How should this passage inform the way we view our lives? What should change about the way we act or think because of this passage?
13. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. do you not understand from this section? (Write these down so that you will remember to bring them up in our class discussion!)

## **Ephesians 2:11-22** (English Standard Version)

**11** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— **12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

## **Lesson 6: To Him Be the Glory (Ephesians 3:1-21)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
  
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
  
4. What do you learn in 3:1-13 about the following words and concepts?
  - a. Mystery
  - b. Revelation
  - c. Gospel
  - d. Grace
5. What purpose does God have in the revelation of the mystery of the Gospel?
  
6. How is 3:1-13 relevant and meaningful in your life?
  
7. After reading Paul's prayer in 3:14-21 answer the following.
  - a. How should we think of and view God as we pray?
  
  - b. What should we pray for God to give to and do in us?
  
  - c. Where in our lives will we see the most significant impact of prayer?
  
  - d. What is the end goal of our prayers? (And our lives as Christians?)
  
8. How should this passage inform the way we view our lives? What should change about the way we act or think because of this passage?
  
9. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. do you not understand from this section? (Write these down so that you will remember to bring them up in our class discussion!)

### **Ephesians 3:1-21** (English Standard Version)

**3** For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. **6** This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

**7** Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. **8** To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9** and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, **10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

**11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. **13** So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

**14** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith— that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**20** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## **Lesson 7: The Worthy Walk (Ephesians 4:1-6)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
  
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
  
4. What metaphor is used to describe the nature of Christian character in 4:1? How does this metaphor help us to understand our life with God?
  
5. What is our walk based upon? What were the most central elements of “the calling” that we have already studied in Ephesians 1-3? Write out the elements of “the calling” highlighted in the following Scriptures:
  - a. 1:6, 12, 14 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What is the first way which we are told to walk worthy of the calling?
  
7. Using either a Greek lexicon / concordance or English dictionary (both can be found online if you do not have a hard copy), write out a definition of the following words.
  - a. Humility
  - b. Gentleness
  - c. Patience
  - d. Tolerance
  - e. Love
  
8. Which of these qualities is the most difficult for you personally in your walk? How does the text indicate that we should expect that these things will be difficult?
  
9. Why do you think these qualities are the ***first*** instructions given for how we are to walk? What in this text is the stated purpose for walking in these things?

10. List the seven fundamental principles that unite Christians listed in this text. Consider and note alternatives to these.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

11. What implications do these seven “ones” have for our fellowship with other people?

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**Ephesians 3:20-4:6** (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>3:20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

## **Lesson 8: Growing as One Body (Ephesians 4:7-16)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. Though all Christians are “one” in attitude and principle is there still variety in the body? Why is that important to recognize?
5. When did Jesus establish his ability to gift his body? How is his gifting described?
6. What specific gifts from Christ are highlighted in this passage? (See Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 for further discussion on “gifts.”) Do we have these gifts today? Support your answer.
7. What is the common denominator among the gifts listed in this passage?
8. Fill in the following blanks from the text and consider the progression of purpose in the gifts that Christ has given to / for the Body.
  - a. “for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints”
  - b. “to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body”
  - c. “until \_\_\_ attain to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_”
  - d. “to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ”
9. When we grow to be like Christ, how affected will we be by the ideas and character of the fallen world?
10. Instead of joining in the deceit and destruction of the world, what are we supposed to be doing (or speaking)? What will happen as we do / speak in Christ?
11. How important is each individual member in the body of Christ? Explain.

**Ephesians 4:7-16** (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captive a host of captives,  
And He gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



## **Lesson 9: Walking in Newness (Ephesians 4:17-32)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. If we are growing together in Christ, how should our relationship to the world be affected?
5. What is the nature of the way that the world “walks”? (Note parallels to 2:1-3!) Does the impact of sinfulness increase or decrease the longer we walk in sin? How do you see these principles of sinfulness in the fallen world manifested today?
6. What have we learned that should teach us to not participate in the walk of the world?
7. List the three-step process this passage describes for us to be changed from sinful living to Christ-like living?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
8. What is the goal of Christian morality?
9. Why should Christians feel compelled to speak the truth?
10. What happens if we hold on to anger instead of dealing with it “before the sun goes down”?
11. How can we determine what is / is not “corrupt communication”? (HINT: There is an implied answer in this very text!)
12. Why should we put away evil attitudes and be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, etc.?

**Ephesians 4:17-32** (New International Version)

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## **Lesson 10: Walking in Love, Light and Care (Ephesians 5:1-21)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
  
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
  
4. What standard are we aiming for in our character as we learn of Christ? (See also 4:24)
  
5. What should characterize our walk? How far should our love take us?
  
6. List all the sins that are in this text that are opposed to love. Which of these are most pervasive in your life? Which do you see around you most frequently in your world?
  
7. How serious are these sins against love? What should we be guarding against as we strive to walk in love?
  
8. Now that we are “light in the Lord”, how should we walk? What will be the fruit of our lives if we walk this way? What is the goal / standard for walking this way?
  
9. How should saints relate to the darkness of the sinful world? Why? How?
  
10. What is the third way this text tells us that we should walk? List the three “not...but” statements in this portion of the text.
  
11. How should we respond to the “evil days” we face? How might we typically (and wrongly) respond?
  
12. How do the following activities relate to being “filled with the Spirit”?
  - a. Collective Worship
  - b. Thanksgiving
  - c. Mutual Submission

**Ephesians 5:1-21** (New King James Version)

**5** Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

<sup>3</sup> But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup> neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), <sup>10</sup> finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. <sup>14</sup> Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,  
Arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light.”

<sup>15</sup> See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. <sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of God.

## **Lesson 11: Submitting to One Another (Ephesians 5:22-6:9)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. What command(s) does this passage give to wives? To husbands?
5. Why do you think God gives these instructions? How are they difficult to obey?
6. What does this text teach us about our value to Christ? What does this text teach us was accomplished in the Cross? How does marriage relate to Christ and the church?
7. What command(s) does this passage give to children? To parents?
8. Why do you think God gives these instructions? How are they difficult to obey?
9. What motivation(s) should parents use to encourage their children to be obedient and respectful? What is required of parents for this to practically be carried out?
10. Who is primarily responsible for child-training in this text? Why do you think that is?
11. What temptations do fathers face in child-training? How can these be overcome?
12. What command(s) does this passage give to slaves? To masters? (NOTE: The slave-master relationship of the Roman empire was quite different from the slave-master relationship of what we are familiar with in more modern terms. Typically, people became slaves either to work off a debt or as a result of a lost war.)

13. Why do you think God gives these instructions? How are they difficult to obey?

14. What motivation(s) are given to Servants for their submission? What motivation(s) are given to Master's for their right rule?

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**Ephesians 5:22-6:9** (English Standard Version)

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.<sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,<sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

<sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**6** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup>not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup>rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup>knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. <sup>9</sup>Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

**Lesson 12: Be Strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10-24)**

1. Read the text for this lesson multiple times aloud. Using the attached worksheet, highlight and make marginal notes on features of this text that seem significant to you.
2. In 1-2 sentences, what would you say this section is all about?
3. What words, phrases, ideas, concepts, etc. are repeated in the text?
4. What does this passage teach about strength? What does it teach about our stand?
5. What does this passage teach about the struggle we face? How might we often misunderstand our struggle? Why does it matter that we have an accurate understanding of our struggle?
6. What do we need to "take up" in our struggle? For what purpose?
7. List each part of the armor of God and what it provides
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
8. What discipline must go with our dressing in the armor of God? What does this discipline accomplish for us?
9. Why did Paul need prayers of others? What does this request teach you about Paul's service and therefore about your service?
10. Who was Paul going to send to the saints? Why?
11. What stands out to you in the final greeting / conclusion of this epistle?

**Ephesians 6:10-24** (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

<sup>21</sup> But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. <sup>22</sup> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

<sup>23</sup> Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*.