

**Life Group Leaders Training Packet**



More Life Group Leader Resources:

<http://discipleschurch.net/life-group-content/>

## 1.1 Introduction – What & the Why lead a Life Group

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***Bible Study groups, typically sermon-based. Always life giving.***

Life groups exist to help people connect deeply with each other in God's word transforming them into fully devoted disciples of Christ.

- Life Groups are not Dinner Groups on steroids; they are the daily expression of the life of the church!
- Life Groups are not small groups for teaching; they are collections of people in community being disciplined!
- Life Groups are not primarily for learning; they are for transformation and community.
- Life Group leaders are not teachers who impart their wisdom primarily, they are friends ensuring shepherding.

### **WHY INDUCTIVE?**

- Anyone can participate.
- It's more difficult for one person to monopolize.
- It leans on the group to discern the Spirit's leading, not one teacher or commentator.

## 1.2 Leader Expectations

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### General Qualifications

- Committed to Christ.
- Committed to the vision and values of Disciples Church.
- Committed to integrity, Godly character and spiritual transformation.
- Committed to their call as a missionary to their group.
- Skills/abilities/gifts
  - Leadership, shepherding and/or facilitating.
  - Strong ability to keep discussion on track and kindly redirect hijackers.
  - Social skills – strong evidence of relating/connecting well with others.

### Prepare for your weekly “meeting”

- Follow up on the connections you made Sunday.
- Work through the Prep materials.
- Reach out to anyone who missed last week or who you think needs a connection.

Track & initiate care of group members

- Obtain a good pulse regularly on how members of your group are doing in life.
- Communicate special needs to pastors.
- Care for members and their families.
  - Initiate meals/care for those ill or hospitalized.
  - Visit and/or stay in touch with those who are absent.
- Take attendance weekly using the Planning Center Groups application
  - Send off your attendance report BEFORE you go to bed after Life Group.

Serve as a significant and contributing member of Leadership Community.

- We will use these as “half time” meetings as Life Group Leaders.
- We will plan for upcoming season(s)
- We will adjust/tweak/improve how we serve our people in groups.

### 1.3 Host Expectations

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General Qualifications

- Committed to Christ.
- Committed to the vision and values of Disciples Church.
- Committed to integrity, Godly character and spiritual transformation.

Provide a clean and comfortable home

- Is my house clean?
- Do I have enough comfortable chairs (if not, arrange to get some from church)
- Do I have ample lighting?
- Do I have extra Bibles out?
- Is my house free of strong pet odors or allergens?
- Do I have a plan to keep us free of child interruptions?

Provide support, engagement and feedback for the leader

- Work to remove any/all distractions from the study/prayer/discussion.
- Keep an eye on the leader to be sure she/he has what they need during discussion.
- Organize the groups meal/snack schedule(s).

\*\*Cooking every week is NOT necessary. \*\*A large beautiful home is NOT necessary.

## Season Schedule

Dec		Jan 2018	Feb	Mar
1	3	Dec 31-Jan 6 - Promo begins	Jan 28-Feb 3	Feb 25 - Mar 3
2	10	7 - Promo begins	4 - WEEK 1	4
3	17	14 - Promo begins	11	11
4	24	21 - Promo/sign ups	18	18
				25 - FINAL WEEK
Apr	Apr	May	June	July
1	1 - Easter Sunday	Apr 29-may 5	May 27-Jun 2 - Promo/sign ups GRAD WEEK	1
2	8	6- Promo begins	3- Promo/sign ups	8
3	15	13- Promo begins	10- WEEK 1	15- FINAL WEEK
4	22-	20- Promo/sign ups	17	22-Optional - group party
5			24	29

Thurs - folsom 6:30-8:30 // Thurs - women's Mensing's home 6:30-8 // Mon - Zive fair oaks 6:30-8 // Cameron park, 6-7:30, wed //

## Dealing with Issues in your group

Someone is in crisis...FOUR Q's

1. How long have you been dealing with this? When did this first occur?
2. Who else knows?
  - a. Have you talked to anyone else? How often? When was the last time you talked this through with someone else? How did they respond?
3. Have you received any advise or counsel?
4. What are your next steps?



Someone hijacking or causing trouble repeatedly

- Redirect the discussion...
  - *“It’s great to hear what you think, Bob, I’d also love to hear from some others now..”*
  - *“So if you’ve already shared tonight, let’s not share on the next section until three others weigh in...”*
  - *“You seem pretty passionate about that point of view, would someone else have a different view to offer?”*
  - Call on someone specifically you see waiting to speak...
  - Designate an “interrupter” in the group so you don’t have to shut Bob down.
  - *“That’s an interesting story about your Mustang, Bob, how does that relate back to the text?”*
- Talk with your host and work through the Four Q’s.
- Talk with the trouble-maker about the issue.
- If all that fails, pray it’s week 8...if not, call one of the pastors.

### Making your first night great!

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1. Contact everyone in your group to remind them of the address and start time the week-of and ask them to bring something to contribute to a meal for week one. Buy in gets everyone in.
2. Introductions
  - a. Be sure everyone talks
  - b. Some non-intrusive info about them
    1. Name, favorite movie of all time
3. Orientation
  - a. Address how you’re approaching Food, alcohol, child care and hand out covenants.
    1. Four marks of a healthy Life Group
      - a. Disciple-making is our #1 goal together. (Romans 8:29)
      - b. Love one another tangibly. (Romans 15:7)
      - c. Take care of one another (John 13:34)
      - d. Keep our commitments to the group. (Psalm 15:1-2, 4)
4. Don’t skip the study!
  1. Explain Inductive Bible Study
  2. Observe
  3. Interpret
  4. Apply



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## Flow of the discussion

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### 3 Simple Steps for Studying the Bible

Step 1: Observation—What does the passage say?

Step 2: Interpretation—What does the passage mean?

Step 3: Application—What am I going to do about what the passage says and means?

#### Step 1: Observation

Observation is the first and most important step in how to study the Bible. As you read the Bible text, you need to look carefully at what is said, and how it is said. Look for:

- Terms, not words. Words can have many meanings, but terms are words used in a specific way in a specific context. (For instance, the word trunk could apply to a tree, a car, or a storage box. However, when you read, “That tree has a very large trunk,” you know exactly what the word means, which makes it a term.)

- Structure. If you look at your Bible, you will see that the text has units called paragraphs (indented or marked ¶). A paragraph is a complete unit of thought. You can discover the content of the author’s message by noting and understanding each paragraph unit.

- Emphasis. The amount of space or the number of chapters or [verses](#) devoted to a specific topic will reveal the importance of that topic (for example, note the emphasis of [Romans 9](#) and [Psalms 119](#)).

- Repetition. This is another way an author demonstrates that something is important. One reading of [1 Corinthians 13](#), where the author uses the word “love” nine times in only 13 verses, communicates to us that love is the focal point of these 13 verses.

- Relationships between ideas. Pay close attention, for example, to certain relationships that appear in the text:

—Cause-and-effect: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things” ([Matthew 25:21](#)).

—Ifs and thens: “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land” ([2 Chronicles 7:14](#)).

—Questions and answers: “Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty” ([Psalms 24:8](#)).

- Comparisons and contrasts. For example, “You have heard that it was said...but I say to you...” ([Matthew 5:21](#)).

- Literary form. The Bible is literature, and the three main types of literature in the Bible are discourse (the epistles), prose (Old Testament history), and poetry (the [Psalms](#)). Considering the type of literature makes a great deal of difference when you read and interpret the Scriptures.

- Atmosphere. The author had a particular reason or burden for writing each passage, chapter, and book. Be sure you notice the mood or tone or urgency of the writing.

After you have considered these things, you then are ready to ask the “Wh” questions

Who? What? Where? When?

Who are the people in this passage? What is happening in this passage? Where is this story taking place? When in time (of day, of the year, in history) is it?

Asking these four “Wh” questions can help you notice terms and identify atmosphere. The answers will also enable you to use your imagination to recreate the scene you’re reading about.

As you answer the “Wh” questions and imagine the event, you’ll probably come up with some questions of your own.

Asking those additional questions for understanding will help to build a bridge between observation (the first step) and interpretation (the second step) of the Bible study process.



**Step 2: Interpretation**

Interpretation is discovering the meaning of a passage, the author's main thought or idea. Answering the questions that arise during observation will help you in the process of interpretation. Five clues (called "the five C's") can help you determine the author's main point(s):

- **Context.** You can answer 75 percent of your questions about a passage when you read the text. Reading the text involves looking at the near context (the verse immediately before and after) as well as the far context (the paragraph or the chapter that precedes and/or follows the passage you're studying).
- **Cross-references.** Let Scripture interpret Scripture. That is, let other passages in the Bible shed light on the passage you are looking at. At the same time, be careful not to assume that the same word or phrase in two different passages means the same thing.
- **Culture.** The Bible was written long ago, so when we interpret it, we need to understand it from the writers' cultural context.
- **Conclusion.** Having answered your questions for understanding by means of context, cross-reference, and culture, you can make a preliminary statement of the passage's meaning. Remember that if your passage consists of more than one paragraph, the author may be presenting more than one thought or idea.
- **Consultation.** Reading books known as commentaries, which are written by Bible scholars, can help you interpret Scripture.

**Step 3: Application**

Application is why we study the Bible. We want our lives to change; we want to be obedient to God and to grow more like Jesus Christ. After we have observed a passage and interpreted or understood it to the best of our ability, we must then apply its truth to our own life.

You'll want to ask the following questions of every passage of Scripture you study:

- How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- How does this truth affect me?
- How does this truth affect my response to the enemy, Satan?

The application step is not completed by simply answering these questions; the key is putting into practice what God has taught you in your study. Although at any given moment you cannot be consciously applying everything you're learning in Bible study, you can be consciously applying something. And when you work on applying a truth to your life, God will bless your efforts by, as noted earlier, conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ.

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Some other great places for study resources:

<http://discipleschurch.net/life-group-content/>

## Life Group Covenant

Life Groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this covenant is to help you discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

### THE PURPOSE:

Life groups exist to help people connect deeply with each other in God's word transforming them into fully devoted disciples of Christ. We will do this by focusing on

- Sharing** – Taking time each week to share what's going on in our lives.
- Listening** – We will be a group of listeners, knowing we are better when we all weigh in and sharpen one another.
- Studying** – Each week we will study a section of Scripture related to Sunday's sermon. Our goal is transformation, not simply information.
- Supporting** – Each week we will try to discover how what we learned can be used to support each other in Life Group.

### Four marks of a healthy Life Group

1. Disciple-making is our #1 goal together. (Romans 8:29)
2. Love one another tangibly. (Romans 15:7)
3. Take care of one another (John 13:34)
4. Keep our commitments to the group. (Psalm 15:1-2, 4)

### Dates

We will meet on \_\_\_\_\_ nights for nine weeks. Our final meeting of this season will be on \_\_\_\_\_.

### Time

We'll arrive between \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ and begin the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_. We'll spend \_\_\_\_\_ minutes on sharing, then study for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, then pray for \_\_\_\_\_. Our group will all leave from our host home by \_\_\_\_\_ at the latest.

### Children

Our plan for childcare is \_\_\_\_\_. To ensure we get the most out of our discussion we are committed together to not have kids running through the middle of group interrupting our discussion. Nursing babies are, of course, welcome in the study.

### Attendance

We are committed to journey together as a group for the next nine weeks. IF I cannot make it I will call \_\_\_\_\_ so the group can be praying for me.





We all agree together to honor this covenant:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Ephesians Summary**

**Summary of the Book of Ephesians**

This summary of the book of Ephesians provides information about the title, author(s), date of writing, chronology, theme, theology, outline, a brief overview, and the chapters of the Book of Ephesians.



### Author, Date and Place of Writing

The author identifies himself as Paul ([1:1](#); [3:1](#); cf. [3:7,13](#); [4:1](#); [6:19-20](#)). Some have taken the absence of the usual personal greetings and the verbal similarity of many parts to Colossians, among other reasons, as grounds for doubting authorship by the apostle Paul. However, this was probably a circular letter, intended for other churches in addition to the one in Ephesus (see notes on [1:1,15](#); [6:21-23](#)). Paul may have written it about the same time as Colossians, c. a.d. 60, while he was in prison at Rome (see [3:1](#); [4:1](#); [6:20](#); see also chart, p. 2261).

### The City of Ephesus

Ephesus was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). It had a harbor that at that time opened into the Cayster River (see map, p. 2429), which in turn emptied into the Aegean Sea (see map, p. 2599). Because it was also at an intersection of major trade routes, Ephesus became a commercial center. It boasted a pagan temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Diana (Greek *Artemis*); cf. [Ac 19:23-31](#). Paul made Ephesus a center for evangelism for about three years (see note on [Ac 19:10](#)), and the church there apparently flourished for some time, but later needed the warning of [Rev 2:1-7](#).

### Theological Message

Unlike several of the other letters Paul wrote, Ephesians does not address any particular error or heresy. Paul wrote to expand the horizons of his readers, so that they might understand better the dimensions of God's eternal purpose and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church.

The letter opens with a sequence of statements about God's blessings, which are interspersed with a remarkable variety of expressions drawing attention to God's wisdom, forethought and purpose. Paul emphasizes that we have been saved, not only for our personal benefit, but also to bring praise and glory to God. The climax of God's purpose, "when the times will have reached their fulfillment," is to bring all things in the universe together under Christ ([1:10](#)). It is crucially important that Christians realize this, so in [1:15-23](#) Paul prays for their understanding (a second prayer occurs in [3:14-21](#)).

Having explained God's great goals for the church, Paul proceeds to show the steps toward their fulfillment. First, God has reconciled individuals to himself as an act of grace ([2:1-10](#)). Second, God has reconciled these saved individuals to each other, Christ having broken down the barriers through his own death ([2:11-22](#)). But God has done something even beyond this: He has united these reconciled individuals in one body, the church. This is a "mystery" not fully known until it was revealed to Paul ([3:1-6](#)). Now Paul is able to state even more clearly what God has intended for the church, namely, that it be the means by which he displays his "manifold wisdom" to the "rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms" ([3:7-13](#)). It is clear through the repetition of "heavenly realms" ([1:3,20](#); [2:6](#); [3:10](#); [6:12](#)) that Christian existence is not merely on an earthly plane. It receives its meaning and significance from heaven, where Christ is exalted at the right hand of God ([1:20](#)).

Nevertheless, that life is lived out on earth, where the practical daily life of the believer continues to work out the purposes of God. The ascended Lord gave "gifts" to the members of his church to enable them to minister to one another and so promote unity and maturity ([4:1-16](#)). The unity of the church under the headship of Christ foreshadows the uniting of "all things in heaven and on earth" under Christ ([1:10](#)). The new life of purity and mutual deference stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ ([4:17 -- 6:9](#)). Those who are "strong in the Lord" have victory over the evil one in the great spiritual conflict, especially through the power of prayer ([6:10-20](#); see note on [1:3](#)).

### Outline

- I. Greetings ([1:1-2](#))



- II. The Divine Purpose: The Glory and Headship of Christ ([1:3-14](#))
  - III. Prayer That Christians May Realize God's Purpose and Power ([1:15-23](#))
  - IV. Steps Toward the Fulfillment of God's Purpose (chs. [2-3](#))
    - A. Salvation of Individuals by Grace ([2:1-10](#))
      - B. Reconciliation of Jew and Gentile through the Cross ([2:11-18](#))
      - C. Uniting of Jew and Gentile in One Household ([2:19-22](#))
      - D. Revelation of God's Wisdom through the Church ([3:1-13](#))
      - E. Prayer for Deeper Experience of God's Fullness ([3:14-21](#))
    - V. Practical Ways to Fulfill God's Purpose in the Church ([4:1;6:20](#))
      - . Unity ([4:1-6](#))
      - A. Maturity ([4:7-16](#))
      - B. Renewal of Personal Life ([4:17;5:20](#))
      - C. Deference in Personal Relationships ([5:21;6:9](#))
        - 1. Principle ([5:21](#))
        - 2. Husbands and wives ([5:22-33](#))
        - 3. Children and parents ([6:1-4](#))
        - 4. Slaves and masters ([6:5-9](#))
      - D. Strength in the Spiritual Conflict ([6:10-20](#))
- VI. Conclusion, Final Greetings and Benediction ([6:21-24](#))
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From the NIV Study Bible, Introductions to the Books of the Bible, Ephesians  
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**WEEK ONE: Ephesians 1 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**Greetings from Paul**

<sup>1</sup> This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus,<sup>[a]</sup> who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

**Spiritual Blessings**

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. <sup>6</sup> So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup> He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

<sup>9</sup> God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. <sup>10</sup> And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>11</sup> Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God,<sup>[c]</sup> for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

<sup>12</sup> God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. <sup>13</sup> And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own<sup>[d]</sup> by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

- 1.
- 2.
3. *How could we serve together as a group?*

**THREE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**WEEK TWO: Ephesians 2:11-18 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*Oneness and Peace in Christ*

<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

<sup>17</sup> He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup> Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

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**WEEK THREE: Ephesians 3:6-21 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup> By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

<sup>8</sup> Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup> I was chosen to explain to everyone<sup>[b]</sup> this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

<sup>10</sup> God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Because of Christ and our faith in him,<sup>[c]</sup> we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. <sup>13</sup> So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

*Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth*

<sup>14</sup> When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>15</sup> the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

<sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

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- 2.
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**WEEK 4: Ephesians 4:1-13 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*Unity in the Body*

<sup>4</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

<sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all,  
who is over all, in all, and living through all.

<sup>7</sup> However, he has given each one of us a special gift<sup>[a]</sup> through the generosity of Christ. <sup>8</sup> That is why the Scriptures say,

"When he ascended to the heights,  
he led a crowd of captives  
and gave gifts to his people."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>10</sup> And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

<sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

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- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**WEEK 5: Ephesians 5:1-14 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*Living in the Light*

<sup>5</sup> Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us<sup>[a]</sup> and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

<sup>3</sup> Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. <sup>4</sup> Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. <sup>5</sup> You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

<sup>6</sup> Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. <sup>7</sup> Don't participate in the things these people do. <sup>8</sup> For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! <sup>9</sup> For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

<sup>10</sup> Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, <sup>14</sup> for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
rise up from the dead,  
and Christ will give you light.”

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

- 1.
- 2.
3. *How could we serve together as a group?*

**THREE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





**WEEK 6: Ephesians 5:15-33 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*Living by the Spirit's Power*

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Spirit-Guided Relationships: Wives and Husbands*

<sup>21</sup> And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup> As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>27</sup> He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup> No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup> And we are members of his body.

<sup>31</sup> As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. <sup>33</sup> So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

- 1.
- 2.
3. *How could we serve together as a group?*

**THREE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**WEEK SEVEN: Ephesians 6:5-9 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*Slaves and Masters*

<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. <sup>6</sup> Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. <sup>7</sup> Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>8</sup> Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

<sup>9</sup> Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

1. *How could we serve next week as a group?*
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**WEEK EIGHT: Ephesians 6:10-19 New Living Translation (NLT)**

*The Whole Armor of God*

<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we<sup>[a]</sup> are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. <sup>15</sup> For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>16</sup> In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>17</sup> Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>19</sup> And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF OBSERVATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE TANGENTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

