

CHURCH UNITED

The Letter to the Ephesians



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible and pray every day.
- Use the prayer point suggestions below to guide your prayers as well as writing down people you are seeking to reach.

2. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

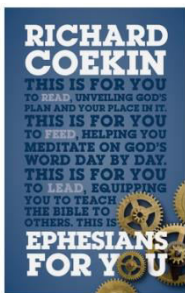
- Take this to **GC** each week so you can follow along with the Bible Study.
- Use the **Whole Family Learning** ideas on pages 43-45.

PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family, and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.

SUGGESTED READING:

If you would like to engage more with the Letter of Ephesians:



- 'Ephesians for you' by Richard Coekin
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-ephesians/#week-1-overview-the-church-in-gods-plan>

CHURCH UNITED – EPHESIANS

WEEK	PASSAGE	TOPIC
1	Ephesians 1:1-14	Clear Vision
2	Ephesians 1:15-23	Christ Triumphant
3	Ephesians 2:1-10	Radical Change
4	Ephesians 2:11-22	One New Man
5	Ephesians 3	Manifold Wisdom
6	Ephesians 4:1-16	Active Unity
7	Ephesians 4:17-5:2	Renewed Minds
8	Ephesians 5:3-21	Godly living
9	Ephesians 5:22-6:9	Family Circles
10	Ephesians 6:10-24	Spiritual Warfare

INTRODUCTION: EPHESIANS

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS

The Author: The letter of Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul (1:1).

When was it written and who for: Ephesians was written around 62AD when Paul was imprisoned in Rome (3:1, 4:1, 6:20). It was written to the church in Ephesus (1:1), who Paul visited twice and spent quite a bit of time with (Acts 18:19-21 and 19:1-20:31). Even though it is written to the Ephesian church, its message is one that applies to Christians in all places and times.

Themes and Purpose: The purpose of Ephesians is to remind the church of the work of Jesus and how that impacts the life we live today. Throughout all this, Paul reminds them of the unity that they have in Christ as well as the unity that is shared between the body of Christ the Church.

WEEK 1: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Acts 19:1-22

1. What did Paul do on arriving in Ephesus?
2. What sort of persecution did he face and from whom?
3. What was the result of Paul's ministry so far in Ephesus?
4. What do you learn in this passage about how God works to spread the news about Jesus?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Acts 19:23-41

1. What do you learn from this passage about the culture in Ephesus when Paul was there?
2. What happens to Paul and his travelling companions?
3. What can this incident teach us about what the Ephesian church may have been experiencing?
4. In what ways is this different, or similar to our culture today?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Acts 20:13-37

1. How does Paul describe his ministry amongst the Ephesian church?
2. How would you describe his relationship with them?
3. What does Paul command the Ephesian leaders to do?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 1:1-2

1. What do you learn about Paul in these verses?
2. What do you learn about the recipients of the letter in these verses?
3. How does Paul greet them?
4. What is the significance of 'grace' and 'peace' for Christians?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

1. What overwhelming picture of God do you get in this passage?
2. Is God being in control something that you doubt in your life? When and why?
3. Why does this passage direct us to praise?
4. What does this passage teach you about God's sovereignty? What hope and peace does it offer?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

Do you consider yourself to be someone who is blessed? What blessings have you received or maybe not received that you think you should have?

READ EPHESIANS 1:1-14

List the different things that God has done for his people.

What role does Jesus have in these things?

How does Paul describe the role and purpose of the Holy Spirit in this passage?

What reason does Paul give for God blessing us so much? Is there any room for boasting about being a Christian?

Do you often feel discontent about your life and what you have? How can this passage teach you and give you perspective in these times?

How does God providing us with 'every spiritual blessing' (verse 3) actually affect the way we live/think/etc?

How can we develop a culture of praise in our GC's, church, families, and personal lives?

Considering what we learn about how people are saved in this passage; how does this affect the way we do evangelism today?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. How does Paul show the importance of praise and prayer in this passage?
2. Do you have a similar balance of praise and petition in your prayer life? Reflect on this and if there is anything you need to change, think how you can do this.
3. Write out this prayer in your own words then spend some time praying it.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 1:9-11

1. What things does Paul pray for the Philippian church?
2. What are the similarities and differences between this prayer and the one in Ephesians chapter 1?
3. How can this prayer inform your prayer life and what you pray for?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Colossians 2:9-14

1. What things does Paul pray for the church in Colossi?
2. What are the similarities and differences between this prayer and the one in Ephesians chapter 1?
3. How can this prayer inform your prayer life and what you pray for?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:11-12

- 1 What things does Paul pray for the Thessalonian church?
- 2 What are the similarities and differences between this prayer and the one in Ephesians chapter 1?
- 3 How can this prayer inform your prayer life and what you pray for?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 1:1-23

- 1 What is the connection between verses 3-14 and verses 15-23?
- 2 What is the main thing that you learnt from this passage? Or what is the main thing that struck you from this passage?
- 3 Considering this, are there any changes you need to make in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

How would you describe your prayer life? Why do you pray and what do you pray for?

READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23

What is the reason for Paul's prayer for the Ephesians?

How would you sum up what Paul asks for in his prayer?

Why would Paul ask that the Ephesians would grow in wisdom and enlightenment? What is the hope that this kind of prayer will achieve?

How does Paul describe Jesus in this passage?

Think back over your prayers in the past days/weeks. What has motivated you to pray? What have you prayed about?

What can you learn from Paul's prayer about how to pray? Are there some things that you need to change about your prayer habits to reflect this in your life?

How do you think having 'the spirit of wisdom and of revelation' (verse 17) would affect your life?

Do you think this prayer can ever be fully answered in this life? What does this teach us about ourselves, God and Jesus?

GC PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying this pray from Ephesians 1 for each other

WEEK 3: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

1. How does Paul describe what the Ephesian church was like?
2. Who do you think is 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work...' (verse 2)?
3. What does it mean to be an 'object of wrath' (verse 3)?
4. Can you remember the time in your life when this described what you were like?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 2:4-7

1. What reason is given for what God has done for us?
2. What has he done for us? How and why has this all been made possible?
3. How have you seen the movement from 'dead in transgressions' to 'alive with Christ' in your life (verse 4)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

1. How does Paul describe grace in this passage?
2. What is the ultimate purpose for God showing this grace (see verse 7)?
3. How are Christians described in this passage? How does this differ from what the world around us teaches?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

1. How is the new life in Jesus described by the writer of Hebrews?
2. What is the response that we are to have because of this new life?
3. How does this passage help you further understand the good deeds that God wants us to do (Ephesians 2:20)?
4. How are you going at doing 'good works' (Ephesians 2:4)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Romans 3:21-31

1. What similarities are there in the way that Paul describes Gods saving work in Romans and Ephesians?
2. What differences are there in the way that Paul describes Gods saving work in Romans and Ephesians?
3. What is one thing from what you have read and learnt this week that has struck you? Spend some time praying and thanking God for this.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

What is one of the best stories that you have heard of someone who has gone through a complete life transformation? What was so significant about this story that made it stick with you?

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

How does Paul describe what the Ephesian church was like? Who did they follow?

Who brought about a change in them? And what is this change?

How are the Ephesian Christians now described?

What reasons are given for what God has done?

Can you relate to Paul's description of the Ephesians former life following the world, flesh and the devil? In what sense have you seen this transformation from 'dead' to 'alive' in your life?

Why do you think Paul adds "raised" and "seated in heavenly realms" to "made alive" (see 1:1:19-23)?

Why is it so key to have grace at the center of our lives? What could happen to your faith if you lose sight of God's grace?

How do you feel about being 'God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works' (verse 10)? Is this how you would describe your life? Why or why not?

What do you think are the 'good works' that God wants you to do in your life (eg Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4-6)?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 2:11-13

1. How does Paul describe the Ephesian church in this passage? What does he call them to remember?
2. How do you think this relates to Ephesians 2:1-10?
3. Considering that we are Gentiles, how do you feel about what is described here?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 2:14-18

1. How does Paul describe what Jesus achieved in his death (as a tip, there is a specific word that is repeated)?
2. What do all Christians have access to?
3. Would you describe Christianity as a place of peace? Why or why not?
4. How does this affect how we do evangelism today?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

1. How are the Ephesian church further described in this passage?
2. What is the foundation of the church?
3. How is the church described by Paul in this passage?
4. What are the implications of these truths for Summerleas church?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

1. How does Paul describe the church in this passage?
2. What is Paul warning the Corinthian church against?
3. What are the similarities between this passage and Ephesians 2:11-22?
4. How can you help there to be no division within Summerleas Church?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 2:1-22

1. What are the two main changes that Paul describes in chapter 2?
2. How have these changes been made possible?
3. Are there things in your life that don't reflect the changes that Christ has achieved? What are these and what can you do to remove them from your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

What are some ways that the church is described throughout the world today?
What is the reason behind either the positive or negative comments?

READ EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Why were the Ephesians once alienated from God? What changed this?

How did Christ' flesh set aside the law? Why was this necessary to bring about peace (see also Romans 3:21-31)?

How are God's people (the church) described in this passage?

What is the reason for the church, and the foundation of the church?

Considering what you have learnt in this passage, what implications are there for how we treat each other?

What difference would this make to those who are watching the church and looking in?

Would you describe Summerleas church as a 'holy temple' (verse 21) and 'a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit' (verse 22)? Why or why not?

How can you help Summerleas church be the place that God designed it to be?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: EPHESIANS 3

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 3:1-6

1. How does Paul describe himself and his work in this passage?
2. What has been revealed to Paul?
3. What significance would this have held for the believers during the time of Paul?
4. How can we see God's plan from the Old Testament played out in history?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 3:7-13

1. Why did Paul go into ministry (see also verse 1) ?How does Paul further describe his ministry in this passage? How has his ministry been made possible?
2. What is God's purpose and how is he going about fulfilling this?
3. How does all of this relate to the suffering that Paul is experiencing?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What sort of things does Paul pray for the Ephesian church?
2. Why do you think Paul asks God for these things (see verse 14)?
3. Spend some time writing out this prayer in your own words and praying it.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What are the similarities and differences between Paul's prayers for the Ephesians?
2. What difference would it make in our lives to fully understand the love of Christ?
3. What can you learn from the prayers of Paul that can help you in your own prayer life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 3

1. Twice in this passage Paul mentions 'For this reason I...' (verse 1, 14). How does this help us further understand Paul's teaching in Ephesians 1-3?
2. How would you describe the purpose of the church?
3. Do you see this happening at Summerleas church? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 5 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 3

What would you say to someone who said that their Christian faith was personal and individual and that being part of a church was irrelevant?

READ EPHESIANS 3

What is the mystery that has now been made known to Paul and through him the world?

What reason does Paul give for his ministry and his suffering?

How would you sum up what Paul prays for the Ephesian church?

How does this prayer relate to Paul's teaching in verses 1-13?

According to this passage what role does Summerleas church (and all churches) have in this world?

Is church something that is central to your faith? Why or why not?

If so, how has this changed and influenced the choices that you have made and the way that you live?

What difference would the fulfillment of this prayer have on the church?

GC PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying Paul's prayer in this passage for each other and Summerleas church as a whole

WEEK 6: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

1. What sort of life does Paul say the Ephesian Christians should have?
2. What reason does he give for unity?
3. Which of these characteristics do you currently struggle with? What is one thing you can do to grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 4:7-13

1. What do these verses teach about our differences as Christians?
2. Who are the gifts given by? What is the significance of this in terms of how we use our gifts?
3. What is the purpose and fulfillment of these gifts?
4. How are you going at growing in maturity in Christ?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 68 & Ephesians 4:7-11

1. How is God described in this Psalm? What is David specifically praising him for?
2. What is David, the Psalmist, asking God to do in this Psalm?
3. Who does Paul ascribe these verses from the Psalm to in Ephesians?
4. How does this help add to your view of Christ?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 4:14-16

1. What illustrations does Paul use to depict a mature church? How do they help us understand what he is saying?
2. How do truth and love help build maturity?
3. How are you going at speaking truth and loving people at Summerleas? What changes could you make to grow in these areas?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Considering this passage as a whole, what is Paul exhorting the Ephesian church to be like?
2. Why do you think unity is such a big deal for a church to have?
3. How can you help Summerleas church to be a church that is unified?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 6 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Share some examples of unity done either well or badly in the churches that you have been a part of.

READ EPHESIANS 4:1-16

In the rest of Ephesians, Paul moves from theology to practice. What is the reason that Paul gives for the behavior that he is about to exhort them to? Why do you think it is necessary to have this in place first?

What characteristics does Paul exhort the Ephesian church to have?

List the different gifts that Christ has given to the church. What are the purpose of these gifts and what does that mean?

Considering this, what aim does God have for the church?

Which of the characteristics listed in this chapter do you find the most challenging? Why do you think this is and what can you do to help grow in this area?

Do you think of your life as a life lived for the purpose of doing 'works of service' (verse 12) for God? Why or why not? (See also 2:10)

What are some practical ways you can do 'works of service' (verse 12) at Summerleas church:

- on Sundays:
- during the week:

How can we continue to encourage unity amongst Summerleas church as well as the wider Church?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: EPHESIANS 4:17-5:2

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 4:17-19

1. How does Paul describe the Gentiles in this passage?
2. What does Paul exhort the Ephesian church to not be like? What reason does he give for this?
3. How can you see these things in your life prior to knowing Christ?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 4:20-23

1. What were the Ephesian Christians taught?
2. What are they to put on?
3. Do you think of yourself as having a 'new self' (verse 24)? How have you seen this change happening in your life since becoming a Christian?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 4:25-28

1. What are they to put off?
2. What reasons does Paul give for each of these?
3. Which of these do you find most difficult? What is one thing you can do this week to help grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 4:29-5:2

1. What are the Ephesian Christians not to do?
2. What reasons does Paul give for this?
3. Which of these characteristics do you find most difficult? Why do you think that is?
4. What is something that you can do to help grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 4:17-5:2

1. What is the ultimate thing that Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to be?
2. Do you consider yourself to be an 'imitator of God' (5:1)? Why or why not?
3. How can you 'live a life of love' (5:2) more in your daily life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 7 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 4:17-5:2

"What one believes will show in what they do." How can you see this truth played out in the world today?

READ EPHESIANS 4:17-5:2

What are the things that Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to 'put off' (verse 22)?

What are the things that characterise the 'new self' (verse 24)?

What is the reason that Paul gives behind this behavioural changes?

"It is only when we have grasped clearly who we are in Christ, that the desire will grow within us to live a life that is worthy of our calling and fitting to our character in God's new society."¹

Have you grasped who you are in Christ? If not, what could you do to learn more about this? If so, how have you seen this desire grow in you over time?

Which of the characteristics to put off do you find most difficult? Why do you think this is? What can you do to help grow in this area?

How can we help each other 'put on the new self' at Summerleas Christian Church?

GC PRAYER POINTS

¹ John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, Intervarsity Press: England, 1979; 194.

WEEK 8: EPHESIANS 5:3-21

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 5:3-7

1. What phrase does Paul use to describe Christians here? Is this how you would describe yourself? Why or why not?
2. What behaviours does Paul warn them against?
3. Which of these do you struggle with the most? What is one thing you can do to grow in changing in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 5:8-14

1. What metaphors does Paul use here to describe Christians?
2. What do you think it means to 'live as Children of light' (verse 8)?
3. How are you going at living this way?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Isaiah 60:1-3 & Ephesians 5:13-14

1. What reason does the prophecy in Isaiah give for 'awakening'?
2. How does this help understand what Paul is saying in Ephesians chapter 5?
3. How have you experienced changing from 'darkness' to 'light' in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

1. What does Paul exhort the Ephesian Christians not to do? Why?
2. What does Paul exhort the Ephesian Christians to do? Why?
3. Is your heart one of thanksgiving? Why or why not? How can you continue to grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 5:3-21

1. Considering this whole passage, how is Paul describing God's people?
2. How can you live your life 'as wise' and 'making the most of every opportunity' (verses 15-16)?
3. What role does the Holy Spirit have in a Christian's life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 8 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 5:3-21

Johnny spends a lot of his thought life, time, energy and money on cars and fixing them up. What do you think is Johnny's motivation behind all of this?

READ EPHESIANS 5:3-21

In this passage Paul lists 4 motivations towards putting off your old self and putting on your new self. What are they?

1. Verses 5-7
2. Verses 8-14
3. Verses 15-17
4. Verses 18-21

What do you think it means to be 'filled with the Spirit' (verse 18. See also Galatians 5:22-23)? Why do you think Paul contrasts this with drunkenness?

What are the results of being filled with the Spirit?

What would you say motivates you to act the way you do? How does what Paul teaches here speak into that?

How might we be deceived about the things Paul mentions in verses 3-5?

Paul mentions twice in this passage to have thanksgiving to God (verses 4, 20). What difference does a thankful heart have to living a holy life? How can you cultivate this type of thanksgiving more in your life?

Would you describe yourself as someone being 'filled with the Spirit' (verse 18)? Why or why not?

How can we help each other to live out the life that Paul describes here?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: EPHESIANS 5:22-6:9

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 5:22-24

1. How are wives to act towards their husbands?
2. What reason is given for this?
3. If you are a wife, how are you going at submitting to your husband? If not, how are you going at submitting to Christ?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 5:25-33

1. What commands are given to husbands here?
2. Why are husbands to act in this way?
3. If you are a husband, how are you going at loving your wife?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

1. What is the marriage relationship compared to in this passage?
2. How does that help you understand this relationship more?
3. Considering this, what do we learn about the relationship between Jesus and the church?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

1. What command does Paul give to children and to fathers?
2. What reason does Paul give for this command?
3. How are you going at this? How can you grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 6:5-9

1. How are slaves and masters to interact and behave towards each other?
2. What do you think is a modern equivalent to this relationship?
3. How are you going at 'serving wholeheartedly' (verse 7) where God has placed you? How can you grow in this area?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 9 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 5:22–6:9

Before you begin this study, we do want to acknowledge that this is a very complicated issue. If anything comes up that concerns you, please discuss this further with your GC leader.

What do you think is the meaning of submission? Is it positive or negative? Think of some examples and share them with each other.

READ EPHESIANS 5:22–6:9

How does Paul describe the following relationships & what reasons does Paul give for acting this way:

- wives relate to their husbands?
- Husband relate to their wives?
- Children to their parents?
- Fathers to their children?
- Slaves to their masters?
- Masters to their slaves?

What does this passage teach us about Christ and his relationship to the church?

How is the Bible's teaching and understanding of submission different to that of the worlds (see also Philippians 2:6-11)?

Why do you think it is so hard to put others before ourselves?

Is self-sacrifice something that is evident in your own life?

Which of these relationships described in this passage relate to you? How can you take on Paul's commands here to grow in this area?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: EPHESIANS 6:10-24

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 6:10-12

1. What are Christians 'fighting' against in this world?
2. How can Christians fight against this?
3. How do you feel this struggle on a daily basis?
4. What comfort can you have in this from verse 10?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 6:13-17

1. What reason does Paul give to put on the 'full armor of God' (verse 13)?
2. What actually are the elements of the 'armor of God'?
3. How do you think these things would help fight against the 'devil's schemes' (verse 11)?
4. How can you take up the 'armor of God' in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 6:18-20

1. What is Paul's final command for how to fight the 'devil's schemes' (verse 11)?
2. Considering your prayer life, is this how you pray and are these the things that you pray for?
3. What changes may you need to make to your prayer life to reflect Paul's teaching here?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 6:21-24

1. What is the reason for Paul sending Tychicus to them?
2. What does this show about the relationship between Paul and the Ephesian church?
3. How does Paul's final greeting to the church summarise the message of his letter?

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 1-6 (skim reading)

1. How would you summarise the main message of Ephesians?
2. What is something that has really spoken to you from this letter?
3. Considering this, what is one thing that you have been challenged to change and work on from what you have learnt?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 10 GC STUDY: EPHESIANS 6:10-24

What would you say is the biggest battle that Christians face?

READ EPHESIANS 6:10-24

Who does Paul say in this passage are the real enemies of Christians?

What does Paul say to do in order to fight against these enemies?

List the six pieces of the 'armor of God'. What does each one signify and how would they help fight against the enemy?

What importance and significance is given to prayer in this passage?

How do you see the 'devil's schemes' (verse 11) play out in our world and in your life?

What is the thing in your life that you think poses the greatest threat to your faith? What steps can you take to ensure that you will never desert the gospel?

What do you need to do in order to be fully equipped with the armor of God? Are there any changes you need to make in your life?

How can we help each other be 'strong in the Lord' (verse 10)?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS FOR EPHESIANS

1 We have everything we need in God (Ephesians 1)

- Ask the group to list some things that they think they need. Maybe write up some of the responses on a whiteboard/butcher's paper.
- Ask someone to read Ephesians 1:3-13
- Brainstorm together all the things that the passage says we have from God. Maybe write these up on the whiteboard/butcher's paper as well.
- Ask what are the differences that people notice in the different lists? Which one sounds better?
- Spend some time praying and thanking God that he has given us all that we need!

2 Prayer (Ephesians 1)

- Ask your GC what they pray about when they pray. Try and get as many members as possible to share.
- Get into groups of 3/4 people. Give each group some paper and pencils. Spend some time in the groups drawing what they are thankful for. Give each group about 5 minutes then share as a big group.
- Read Ephesians 1:15-23 in the same groups. Maybe use a version that is easier for the younger members of your group to understand. You could use the ERV version. Discuss together and write on paper what Paul prays for and why they think he asks for these things. Give each group about 5 minutes to do this, then get the groups to share what they thought.
- Spend some time praying as a group together.

3 God's Grace (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- Play a game together that is totally not fair! Where the person who doesn't deserve it win's. It could be Pictionary, where the team that loses gets a prize or something along those lines.
- Ask someone to read Ephesians 2:1-10.

- Ask the following questions:
 - What were we once like?
 - What are we now?
 - How is this possible?
 - Is this 'fair'?
- Spend some time praying together thanking God for his grace to us.

4 Unity amongst believers (Ephesians 4:1-16)

- Get into groups and ask the following questions (one at a time) for each group to answer and then share the answers (you could reward the group for the best/funniest answer)
 - What if your foot all of a sudden decided it didn't want to be a foot anymore...what would happen?
 - What if your head decided it didn't want to be a head anymore...what would happen?
 - What if someone started fighting with people in church and not being nice to God's family? What would happen?
- Ask each group to read one of the passages below and talk in their groups about what it teaches about God's family. Share back what they discussed after a couple of minutes.
 - a) Ephesians 4:1-6, b) Ephesians 4:11-13 c) Ephesians 4:14-16
- Spend some time in prayer asking God that we will have unity at Summerleas Church.

5 Old Self/New Self (Ephesians 4:17-5:4)

- Get some old baby clothes (or just clothes that are too small) and try and put them on, or ask others in your group to try and do it. Spend some time having fun with this and giving people a go.
- Ask the group why it didn't work.
- Ask someone to read Ephesians 4:17-5:4
- Draw a 'put off' and 'put on' list on a whiteboard/butchers paper and ask the group what different things are to go in each category from the passage.

- Then ask, why is there this difference between the two?
- Spend some time praying that God would help you put on your new self.

6 The Armor of God (Ephesians 5:10-18)

- Read the passage together
- Split up into groups and have a go at drawing the armor of God. Share as a big group each other's drawings. Could give a prize for the best one/most creative etc if you want.
- Give each group one of the elements to think through and discuss amongst themselves how it would help fight against Satan. Then come back together as a whole group and ask each group to share what they thought.
- Spend some time in prayer together.

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS

FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS)

FOCUS is a Christian international student society that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.



How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them.

What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.

When: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm)

Where: Sandy Bay Baptist Church, 239 Sandy Bay Road

- Pray:
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Pray for Luke and the leadership team that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour.

THE DURDIN FAMILY



Marc and Joey Durdin are another one of our mission partners at Summerleas Church. Marc is the developer of Keyman software which helps translate writing into native languages. Joey is a midwife who provides support and education to women in many ways. They are currently seeking to go to Papua New Guinea in 2022.

- Pray:
 - That God would guide them as they make plans to move to Papua New Guinea.
 - Pray for Marc that he will be able to complete his theological degree whilst continuing with the Keyman work.
 - Pray for Joey as she continues to educate and support women remotely.
 - Pray for their family as they transition to a new stage with Bethany getting married in 2021.
 - Pray that God will use them to be a light to all those they meet. That they will be bold to proclaim Christ and show his love to the people in their lives.