

Ephesians Home Study

How to Study the Bible

Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Winter 2020

Week 1: Overview / Ephesians 1:1-14

To work on in preparation for class on Jan. 19

Part A: OIA Review

- 1) Read the Article in the back entitled “The Student, The Fish, and Agassiz”
- 2) What do you learn about Bible Study from this Article?

- 3) Review your notes from class from week 1.
Think through how you go about doing:

Observation

Interpretation

Application

- 4) Take some time to pray for this course. Pray for the following:

- God to make you teachable, willing to be change
- God to come and fill you with His fullness, showing you more deeply His love, and opening your eyes to all He is doing
- God to open the book of Ephesians to you, to help you understand it, and to grow in your love for His word
- Pray for all of our prayer lives, asking God to teach us to pray boldly.
- Ask God to give Mark and Mike wisdom as they lead, and to make them teachable.
- Finally, take some time to thank God for His Word, and for this chance to study it with other. Pray for His glory to be clearly seen!

Part B: Ephesians Overview

1) Read the entire book of Ephesians. What are your first impressions?

2) Look over the outline of Ephesians, get a picture of the entire book in your head.

3) List any initial questions you have that you would like answered:

Part C: Page 1, Line 1 – Page 2, Line 18 (Ephesians 1: 1 - 1:14)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Read Page 1, Line 1 - Page 2, Line 18

List any repeated words / themes:

2) *OBSERVATION*: ReRead this section. Fill in the following:

WHO is this section about (there are 2 main characters):

WHAT do they do (make 2 lists, one for each of the 2 major characters):

WHEN do the key events take place (may be more than one time period):

WHERE do the key events take place:

HOW is it accomplished:

WHAT is the purpose:

3) *INTERPRETATION*: we will work on this in class.

4) *APPLICATION*: Take some time to Worship God for all He's done !

Week 2: Ephesians 1:15-23

To work on in preparation for class on Jan. 26

Part A: Review Page 1, Line 1 - Page 2, Line 18 (Ephesians 1: 1 - 1:14)

1) Reread Page 1, Line 1 - Page 2, Line 18

2) How do you respond to the conclusion it's "God's Party"?

How do you react to the fact that God has a plan for all creation, including you, and that He is carrying out that plan? (does it irate you? Confuse you? Bring comfort?)

Compare your reaction to Paul's reaction, repenting of places where it is unrighteous.

3) Take some time to write down and meditate on the great love and grace of God, and all He has done for you. Just sit back and soak it all in, and lift up your voice in worship to God!

Part B: Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30 (Ephesians 1:15-23)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Read this prayer. Outline it (there are 3 major requests).

2) *OBSERVATION*: ReRead this prayer with pencil and OIA card in hand. Mark in your manuscript as many of the literary connections as you can find (i.e. look for and mark comparisons, contrasts, repeated words, means to an end, climax, etc.)

3) *OBSERVATION*: Note any other important repeated or elaborated on ideas. List any new things we learn about God or us (add onto the lists we started last week). Also comment on why the ending - Paul spends a lot of time elaborating his last point, why?

Part C: Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30 (Ephesians 1:15-23)

1) *INTERPRETATION*: Why does Paul pray this way? (i.e. why are the specific things he picks important? What confidence does he have this prayer will be answered? What is the overriding purpose of the prayer?)

2) *APPLICATION*: Is this the way you pray? Compare this prayer to most of the prayers you pray for yourself and others, what is different.

3) Go make this prayer your own. Pray it back to God as written. Pray it back to God in your own words. Pray it for yourself, and for others in the class.

Week 3: Ephesians 2:1-10

To work on in preparation for class on Feb. 2

Part A: Review Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30 (Ephesians 1:15-23)

- 1) Reread Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30

- 2) How does this compare to your prayers? What could you do to reflect more of Paul's heart?

- 3) Take some time to go back and pray the prayer in Eph, 1. Pray it for yourself, and others you know. Throughout the week keep praying and meditating on this prayers.

Part B: Page 2, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43 (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- 1) *OBSERVATION*: First, try to outline this section. Don't worry so much about numbering every point as getting the structure. For instance, there are 2 states contrasted (dead and life), they make good major points. Under dead it says you did 2 things (there are 2 verbs, both similar in meaning). Under each of those there are several details listed. Try to make a general outline from these things. What do we learn by looking at this outline?

2) *OBSERVATION*: Here Paul contrasts your past and present state (if you know Christ). Contrast what we learn about the 2 states. (hint: make 2 lists, DEATH and LIFE, fill in all the passage says)

3) *Observation*: How does this passage fit in context? (i.e. how does it go with the prayer immediately before it? How does it fit into the larger book so far?)

Part C: Page 2, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43 (Ephesians 2:1-10)

1) *INTERPRETATION*: Take some time to meditate on the implications of this passage. What does it mean to be dead? What would it take to raise the dead? Why does Paul use this particular analogy?

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Why can Paul say this about us? (What reasons does he give, who is the active agent here) What difference does it make that this is true?

3) *APPLICATION*: The truths here should lead both to praise, and to changes in how we think and live. What are some of those changes in daily thinking we need?

4) *APPLICATION*: take time to praise God for all He has done. Also take some time to commit yourself to living as though you were alive and not dead!

Old / New
Ephesians

Optional: This will pull together entire book!

Entire Book of Ephesians

Skim through the entire book of Ephesians. As you go list everything it says about who you were (Old) and who you are (new). Make it Personal, put it all in the first person. Meditate on these truths and make them a real part of your life. (NOTE: list what the passage says you were and are, NOT what you think you are like - the point of Ephesians is that these things REALLY are true about you!)

OLD (way of death)

NEW (Way of life)



Week 4: Ephesians 2:11-22

*To work on in preparation for class on Feb. 16
{reminder, no class Feb. 9}*

Part A: Page 3, Line 43 – Page 4, Line 60 (Ephesians 2:11-22)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Here Paul offers more contrasts about your past and present state (if you know Christ). Contrast what we learn about the 2 states, and meditate on the significance of the distinction (hint: make 2 lists, PAST and PRESENT, fill in all the passage says, as well as anything you know about Israel's history that would clarify the significance of these things).

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Why can Paul say this about us? (What reasons does he give, who is the active agent here) What difference does it make that this is true?

Part B: Page 3, Line 43 – Page 4, Line 60 (Ephesians 2:11-22)

1) *APPLICATION*: Paul uses this section to introduce a larger section on being the body of Christ. What is the significance of this section to the Body? What is the significance to you as a member of that body?

2) *APPLICATION*: Go back the “Old / New” chart and add what we learned in this section (Remember to keep it all personal, in the 1st person)

3) *APPLICATION*: The truths here should lead both to praise, and to changes in how we think and live. What are some of those changes in daily thinking we need?

Part C: Readings

1) Read the article on “Bypassing Scriptural Authority”. How are you tempted to bypass the authority of the Bible rather than fully embracing it?

2) If you missed any of the other readings this is a good week to catch up. Also a good week to review you OIA Bible Study notes as we will be pulling a lot of themes together in the coming week.

Week 5: Ephesians 3:1-21

To work on in preparation for class on Feb. 23

Part A: Page 4, Line 60 – Page 6, Line 76 (Ephesians 3:1-13)

1) *OBSERVATION*: There are several words that are repeated 2-5 times in this section, and which form the central thrust of Paul's discussion. List these words and all we learn about them. List any question you have from this passage.

2) *INTERPRETATION*: What is the main point here? (I.e. why did Paul include this section). It will be very helpful here to tie this into the preceding section. Also tie in the prayer at the end of the chapter.

3) *APPLICATION*: Continue to pray the prayers of Ephesians. Also think through what it means in practical life that the mystery of Christ has gone to the Gentiles. (More application topics will come as we finish this entire section for the week).

Part B: Page 6, Line 76 – Page 6, Line 85 (Ephesians 3:14-21)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Read pages 5:6 - 5:16. Outline the prayer. How is it similar or different from the prayer you looked at in chapter 1?

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Why does Paul pray this way? (I.e. why are the specific things he picks important? What confidence does he have this prayer will be answered? What is the overriding purpose of the prayer?)

3) *APPLICATION*: Is this the way you pray? Compare this prayer to most of the prayers you pray for yourself and others, what is different. Then, go make this prayer your own. Pray it back to God as written. Pray it back to God in your own words.

Part C: Other Prayers of Paul

1) Skim through some of the other letters of Paul looking for his prayers. How are they similar or different from those in Ephesians 1 and 3? What can you learn that would help your prayer life?

2) Continue to pray the prayers of Ephesians 1 and 3 for yourself and for others you know. Make in a habit to pray through the prayers in the Bible.

Week 6: Ephesians 4:1-16

To work on in preparation for class on March 4

Part A: Review Chapters 1 - 3

1) Ephesians Chapters 1-3 form the foundational theology all the rest of the book is based upon. Before we look at the many practical issues addressed in the rest of chapters 4-6, we should summarize the theology so far. First, write below a few sentence summary of who God is, and what He is doing in the world.

2) Now write a brief description of who we are. Include the stuff on our past and our present, as well as what our role is in God's plans.

PartB: Page 6, Line 86 – Page 7, Line 103 (Ephesians 4:1-16)

1) *OBSERVATION*: the Passage begins with "Live a life worthy of calling you have received". What is the calling? (How does this section tie back into chapters 1-3) What does it look like to live worthy? You may want to list everything Paul says. Also observe why he says to do these things.

2) He talks throughout here about the body of Christ. Describe the body. What defines it? Who is a part of it? What do the parts do? What is the purpose of the body?

3) He also talks a lot about maturity. What does maturity look like? How is it attained? What is the role of the church leaders in this? What is the role of other people?

Part C: Page 6, Line 86 – Page 7, Line 103 (Ephesians 4:1-16)

1) *INTERPRETATION*: Summarize Paul's main point in this section in one sentence:

2) *APPLICATION*: What does this passage say about your part in / role in the body? Do you want to be mature? If so, how will it happen? Pray, asking God to accomplish these things.

OPTIONAL: on page 6, lines 3-7, Paul quotes a passage from the psalms. Look up the original passage, and try to figure out why it is Paul quotes it here (and why he changes it!)

Week 7: Ephesians 4:17-32

*To work on in preparation for class on March 22
{reminder, no class March 8 or 15}*

Part A: Page 7, Line 103 – Page 8, Line 121 (Ephesians 4:17-32)

1) *OBSERVATION*: List the major contrasts in this section. Compare the contrasts in this section with those in chapter 2.

Part B: Page 7, Line 103 – Page 8, Line 121 (Ephesians 4:17-32)

2) On the front of the next page is a “Put Off” / “Put On” chart. Fill in everything Paul says we should stop doing or being and everything we should start doing or being.

3) *INTERPRETATION*: Summarize the main point in this section. (Describe this put on / put off dynamic in 1-2 sentences)

Part C: Page 7, Line 103 – Page 8, Line 121 (Ephesians 4:17-32)

1) *APPLICATION*: On the back of the next page is a Personal “Put Off” / “Put On” chart. Ask God to show you some of the areas of your life where you live more like the dead gentiles than a living person of God. Fill in some of those very practical areas on the chart. Make sure every put off has a related put on, and vice versa.

2) *APPLICATION*: Notice how serious an issue Paul makes of this distinction between us and the disobedient - note all the absolute terms and stark contrasts. Do you see life in these stark contrasts. Are the ways of the world REALLY this terrible? What would it mean this week if you saw every action in your life as this black and white?

Put Off / Put On Chart

EPHESIANS

List below everything the Book of Ephesians says to “Put Off” and “Put On”. Include both actions and ways of thinking /being. Keep this list handy and add to it through out the next few weeks.

Put OFF (Gentile Things to Stop doing)

Put ON (Ways to begin Imitating God)



Put Off / Put On Chart

PERSONAL

Make a very PERSONAL list of things YOU need to “Put Off” and “Put On”. Try to be as detailed and practical as possible. Be sure that every “Put Off” has a related “Put On”, and vice versa. (You will not need to share this with anyone else in large group)

Put OFF (Gentile Things to Stop doing)

Put ON (Ways to begin Imitating God)



Week 7: Ephesians 5:1-21

To work on in preparation for class on March 29 (along with next section)

Part A: Review Page 7, Line 103 – Page 8, Line 121 (Ephesians 4:17-32)

- 1) Look back at the PERSONAL “Put Off” / “Put On” chart. Add anything new God has been convicting of. Also, work on making the things listed there as practical as possible (time, place, method of doing them, who will hold accountable, etc.)

- 2) How can those things be accomplished (i.e. can you just go do them in your own strength - if not, what has God done or provided to make the above changes possible)

- 3) Finally, take some good time to seek God in prayer for these things. Then go out to live not as the gentiles but as one who has been given new life by God Himself. Go out in the power that raised Christ from the dead and seated you with Him far above all rulers and powers!

Part B: Page 8, Line 121 – Page 10, Line 141 (Ephesians 5:1-21)

- 1) *OBSERVATION*: the Passage begins with “Therefore, be imitators of God”. List everything we learn about imitating God.

- 2) Add to the basic Put Off / Put On list everything in this passage

3) *INTERPRETATION*: Again, try to summarize the principles behind this entire section in 1-2 sentences (note: do not use paragraph length sentences!)

Part C: Page 8, Line 121 – Page 10, Line 141 (Ephesians 5:1-21)

1) *APPLICATION*: Look back at the PERSONAL “Put Off” / “Put On” chart. Add anything new God has been convicting of in this section.

2) Be sure to apply the specifics! Don’t just get some general principles, look to see if any of the specific things in this passage are things you need to put off/ put on. Again, be specific - time, place, how, why, who hold accountable...

3) *APPLICATION*: Do you live life with this radical separation from evil? Notice all the terms of warning and calls for being alert and careful. Do you live like that? Why or why not? Why should we/ can we?

Week 7: Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9

To work on in preparation for class on March 29 (along with prior section)

Part A: Page 10, Line 141 – Page 11, Line 165 (Ephesians 5:22-6:9)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Make 3 lists below. Go through this passage and list everything it says about the relationship of Husbands to Wives. Then Parents to Children. Then Masters to Slaves.

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Based on these passages, and the theology of the entire book, what do you think it means to submit? What does it mean to be in a position of authority that others are submitting to?

Part B: Page 10, Line 141 – Page 11, Line 165 (Ephesians 5:22-6:9)

1) *INTERPRETATION*: In one sentence describe how people should relate to each other.

2) On what basis are we told to have these relationships? (I.e. what model are we following, what gives us power to do this, etc.)

3) *APPLICATION*: Which of these relationships apply to you? Husband? Wife? Parent? Child? Master? (Employer, manager, leader) Slave? (Employee, subordinate) For each that apply, how are you doing at living out the principles of this passage? Where do you need to ask God to change your heart? What should you do this week to come closer to the right role? How will that happen? (Both specific things to do, and where the power to do it will come from!)

Part C: Summary

1) *SUMMARY*: Look back over the last several chapters. Make a list of everything he says about relationships (you'll notice that most of the put on\ put off stuff actually deals with relationships to other people).

2) Summarize in a few sentences everything Paul has told us about relationships (both the theology that governs them, and the practical things we should do/ not do)

3) *APPLICATION*: Continue working on practical areas where you are not living out the calling you have received in the area of relationships.

Week 8: Ephesians 6:10-24

To work on in preparation for class on April 5

Part A: Page 11, Line 165 – Page 12, Line 181 (Ephesians 6:10-24)

1) *OBSERVATION*: Here Paul describes for us the eternal realities. How does he describe them? Observe everything we learn about the battle (our enemy, our weapons, how to use the weapons, our attitude, etc)? {note: tomorrow we will look more closely at the armor itself}

2) *INTERPRETATION*: What are the implications of being in a war? Think first in general (what does a war look like, what do people do in time of war, etc.). Then think through the implications that we have an active enemy for the things discussed in Ephesians (i.e. prayer, relationships, gentile ways of thinking and acting, etc.)

3) *APPLICATION*: Do you live life as in a war? Do you pray as if your life depended on it? Do you see that there is someone bent on your destruction? Do you see how hopeless it is on your own? Now go back and look at chapter 1, and take refuge in the undefeatable God presented there and His plan!

Part B: Page 11, Line 165 – Page 12, Line 181 (Ephesians 6:10-24)

1) *OBSERVATION*: List each piece of armor, describe it, and how you would both put it on and use it.

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Summarize this whole section in a sentence or two.

3) *APPLICATION*: How foolish would it be to go into battle without armor, or without training in how to use the sword? Do you go out in battle unarmed? How much priority do you put on knowing and using the Word, and on accountability in the Body, 2 of the key weapons, protections He has given us? Again, take time to assess your vulnerabilities in this war, and to come to God and ask Him to cloth and train you!

Part C: Page 11, Line 165 – Page 12, Line 181 (Ephesians 6:10-24)

1) *OBSERVATION*: This section ends with Paul asking for Prayer. List everything he asks for prayer for. Also note any observations from his concluding remarks.

2) *INTERPRETATION*: Why does Paul ask for these prayers? Put these together with the other prayers and petitions of the book. Summarize what our prayers for each other should look like, based on Ephesians. What does the tone of the book teach us about prayer?

3) *APPLICATION*: Do you want this prayer prayed for you (i.e. would you really like boldness so every time you open your mouth the gospel comes out!) If not, take some time to work that through with God right now (i.e. repent). If so, pray it now, and ask someone else to pray it for you as well.

Summary of Ephesians

You are encouraged to continue in Ephesians after the class ends

Part A: SUMMARY

1) Make 2 lists. First list everything we learn about God. Include who he is, what his plan is, what he has done, the realities of this spiritual world, who his friends and enemies are, etc. The second list should contain all the things we learn about us. Our relation to God, who we were, who we are, what made the change, what our relationships should look like, etc.

Part B: SUMMARY

1) Note any other big themes of the book, and what we learn about them (like Body of Christ)

2) What is the tone of the book? How should that effect our interpretation of it?

3) Summarize the entire book of Ephesians in a single phrase. Then elaborate in 1 paragraph.

Part C: Response

1) What have you learned about God, and your relationship to Him, in Ephesians?

2) What are some PRACTICAL applications of what God has taught you about Himself?

3) Summarize what you have learned about relationships in the Body of Christ:

4) What particular areas do you need to work on in relating to others? How will you do that?

5) Summarize what you have learned about Bible study:

6) Summarize what you have learned about prayer:

7) How will you apply these principles in the coming weeks (i.e. will you commit to praying through the prayers in Ephesians, or do an inductive Bible study of another book, etc...)

8) PRAISE GOD! List the ways you have seen God's Lavish Grace, and praise Him for it!