



Bible Studies

Ephesians 1 Study

Why do you think so many people struggle with the idea of predestination?
What does it often imply about prayer / evangelism? How should we respond?

Pray and read Ephesians 1. Individually, list some big ideas (☼),
questions (?) and applications (→) from the passage.

What is a spiritual blessing (1:3)? What makes it spiritual?
Why is it called a blessing? What are some examples in Ephesians 1?

Why do you think Paul is so keen to teach predestination (1:4-5, 11)?
What does it imply? What purpose does it achieve?

Prayer Points

When it comes to our salvation, what is the role of the father?
The son? The Holy Spirit? Us?

What does God's election cause Paul to do (1:15 ff.)?
Why? Isn't God working *everything* for his purpose (1:11)?

What exactly does Paul pray for the Ephesians?
How does this compare with our prayers for others?

What does it mean to know the hope to which he has called you (1:18)?
What do you think this should look like?

Ephesians 2:1-10 Study

Do you know anyone who would say they've been a Christian all their life?
Do you think this is possible? Why / why not?

How does faith extinguish all arrows? Isn't this blind faith that denies all else?
What does our salvation add? What does the word of God add?

Pray and read Ephesians 2:1-10. As a group, rewrite the text taking a new line for each new idea, and indent attributes of previous ideas.

What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for him?
Is this a particular piece of armour (e.g. readiness) or something else?

How does Paul describe the Ephesians pre-Christian state?
Do you think he's describing mindless disobedience or wilful disobedience?

Do you normally view your life as a cosmic battle against evil?
What can we do to remember the reality of our situation?

Who or what is responsible for our pre-Christian state?
Who or what did we follow? Who was at work in us?

Are there any pieces of armour that you excel in or would like to wield better?
How can we train ourselves for battle?

Ephesians 6:10-24 Study

Is the Christian life a life of peace or of conflict?
In what sense should Christians be *in* the world?

Who is responsible for our coming to life? Why did he do it?
Is there any reason or rhyme for God's love? Why / why not?

Pray and read Ephesians 6:10-24. On a printout of the passage, circle repeated words, underline key ideas, divide the text into sections and label them.

What does it mean to be seated in the heavenly realms (2:6)?
How does this affect our dwelling in Sydney?

What exactly are we up against?
Who or what should our eyes be fixed on in our battle against evil?

What are the implications of being responsible for our guilt but being saved by sheer grace? What can't we do? What must we do?

How will truth keep our pants up? How will righteousness protect us?
How will readiness help us?

What have we been saved for? What good works do you think you've been saved for? Are there any others you'd like to explore?

Ephesians 2:11-3:21 Study

Why would our relationship with God change our relationships with our family, friends and colleagues? How should it impact these relationships?

How is the gospel expressed between parents and their kids?
What should motivate children? What should motivate parents?

Pray and read Ephesians 2:11-3:21. Make a flowchart of Paul's argument using → for explanations and asides, and ↓ for progressions of ideas

How is the gospel expressed at work?
What should motivate employees? What should motivate employers?

What is the wall of hostility (2:14)? What would be a modern equivalent?
How does it relate to the hostility that God has put to death (2:16)?

What are some practical ways that we can express the gospel to our spouses, parents and children this week?

What does it mean to be fellow citizens with God's people (2:19)?
What is our citizenship built on? What is it being built to become?

What would it look like at your workplace to work for the Lord and not for your company or your pay check?

Ephesians 5:15-6:9 Study

To what extent does our society view different people as having different roles? Have we gone too far in the name of equality?

When Paul reflects on his ministry (3:1-13), what's he really reflecting on? Why do you think he describes it as a mystery (better translated *secret*)?

Pray and read Ephesians 5:15-6:9. In pairs, take turns interviewing Paul asking 'How can you tell us how to be good husbands, wives, parents, kids, workers?'

What does Paul pray for the Ephesians? Is this very different from his prayer in 1:15-19? Does it add anything?

What do you think it means to live not as unwise but as wise (5:15)? What would this look like in your life (5:16-21)?

What are some of the things that we do to break down walls of hostility? What are some of the things that we do to build them up?

How is the gospel expressed in marriage? What should motivate husbands? What should motivate wives?

How can we better grasp the mystery of the gospel? How can we better grasp the width, length, height and depth Christ's love?

Ephesians 4:1-5:14 Study

Is there anything wrong with the statement:

“Christians aren’t perfect, just forgiven”? What does it imply?

How does our unity affect our speech, anger management and work ethic?

What should we avoid in each of these? What should we pursue in each?

Pray and read Ephesians 4:1-5:14. In groups, debate whether we should unite with people who claim to be Christians (4:1-6) but have moral issues (5:1-7).

In what sense should we be like children (5:1, 8)?

What is the difference rebelling as a child and rebelling as an enemy (5:5-6)?

What does it mean to live a life worthy of the calling we’ve received (4:1)?

What is the unity of the Spirit that we need to keep (4:3)?

How does our calling help us to be humble, gentle, patient and loving (4:2)?

How does God’s forgiveness help us to forgive and be compassionate (4:32)?

How does Paul describe the church? What is its purpose?

What should we be striving for as a church?

How can we put off falsehood (4:25), anger (4:26), bitterness (4:31-32), sexual immorality, impurity and greed (5:3-4)? What should we replace these with?