

DATES AT A GLANCE

| Topic | Scripture Passage | Sunday Sermon Date | Community Bible Experience Date |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| The Blessings of Community | Eph 1:3-14 | 16th June | 20th June |
| A Praying Community | Eph 1:15-23 | 23rd June | 27th June |
| A Grateful Community | Eph 2:1-10 | 30th June | 4th July |
| A United Community | Eph 2:11-22 | 7th July | 11th July |
| A Community that Reveals Christ | Eph 3:1-13 | 14th July | 18th July |
| A Community Rooted in Love, Strengthened in Power | Eph 3:14-21 | 21st July | 25th July |
| A Gifted Community | Eph 4:1-16 | 28th July | 1st Aug |
| A Renewed Community | Eph 4:17-32 | 4th Aug | 8th Aug |
| A Fragrant Community | Eph 5:1-21 | 11th Aug | 15th Aug |
| A Transformed Community | Eph 5:22– 6:4 | 25th Aug | 29th Aug |
| A Witnessing Community | Eph 6:5-9 | 1st Sept | 5th Sept |
| A Ready Community | Eph 6:10-20 | 8th Sept | 12th Sept |

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY BIBLE EXPERIENCE

In 2019, we declared, as a Church, that this would be the year we would embark on a journey of *“GOING DEEPER: Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Community”*.

The Community Bible Experience seeks to do just that. What better way to go “Deeper in Christ” than through His Word, for we are reminded in John 1:14 that Jesus is the ‘Word made flesh’. And what better way to go “Deeper in Community” than to gather around the Word and presence of God as a community of believers, just as they did in the book of Acts, Nehemiah and many more.

The Community Bible Experience is a 12-week journey of diving deeper into the Word of God and into the heart of God, within the context & beauty of a faith community. It is exactly as the name suggests—Gathering as a community around the Bible, and experiencing God through His Word and through His community.

More than just another seminar or bible study class, each experience is designed to be interactive and practical where we believe everyone has something to contribute, as we learn to exegete and exposit the biblical text as our primary source, using simple signposts and tools provided. We don’t just want to bring the people to the Word; We desire to bring the Word to the people. We hope for you to see that the exposition of the Word of God is not reserved for pastors or theologians, but meant to be read, interpreted and taught by anyone who has the desire to learn and be used by God.

At the end of this 12-weeks, it is our prayer that you would have grown to be *ESTABLISHED* in the Word and in community, *EQUIPPED* with the exegesis skills to read and interpret the Word of God, and *EMPOWERED* to teach others the Word.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

SUMMARY

Paul shows how the Gospel should create diverse communities that are unified by their devotion to Jesus and to each other. We see how the concept of the Church was not an afterthought after Jesus' death, but part of God's eternal plan from the beginning of time. Through Jesus, God would create a multi-ethnic community of followers who would form the covenant family God promised to Abraham, and who would learn to live in unity with one another because of God's grace.

SETTING

Ephesus was a wealthy port city in the Roman province of Asia. It was deemed as the most important city and commercial center in Western Asia Minor (now called Turkey), because of its location at the intersection of major trade routes. More than just a wealthy city, it was also a place of pagan worship, boasting a pagan temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Diana (Also known in Greek as *Artemis*).

AUDIENCE

Ephesians was primarily written to Gentile (non-Jewish) followers of Christ—most likely the Church in Ephesus. Because it does not contain individual greetings, it was most likely written to the general Church in Ephesus and meant to be circulated around.

THEME

There are three main overarching themes of Ephesians:

1. Christ has reconciled all creation to Himself and to God.
2. Christ has united people from all nations to Himself and to one another in His Church;
3. Christians must live as new people of God.

5 STEPS FROM BIBLICAL TEXT TO EXPOSITION

Here are some signposts and tools that will guide you in your exegesis and exposition of the biblical passages.

1. STRUCTURE

- i. What are the repeated words and themes in this passage?
- ii. What are the linking words in the passage? (i.e Therefore, and, but, for this reason, etc)
- iii. What is the author's flow of thought?

Tools to Help: Divide the passage into its main sections. Give each section a title to summarize its point.

2. POINT

- i. i. How do the different sections contribute to the main point of the passage?
- ii. How does the context refine the main point of the passage?

Tools to Help: Write down the point of the author in 10 words or less. How might you rephrase the title of each section into an outline that serves the author's point?

3. TONE

- i. What is the mood/feel of the passage?

Tools to Help: Write down the tone of the author. With the words and language he is using, what mood or tone do you feel comes through the passage?

4. PURPOSE

- i. Why is the author telling me all this? What is his aim?
- ii. What does the author want the original audience (and us) to think or do as a result of this passage?

Tools to Help: Write down the purpose of the author. How does this purpose serve the author's main purpose of the whole book (and God's purpose in the Bible)?

5. APPLICATION

- i. What is the key point that stood out to you in this passage?
- ii. What did you learn about going deeper in Community?

SESSION ONE

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

NOTES

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

NOTES

SESSION TWO

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Thanksgiving and Prayer

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

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SESSION THREE

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

NOTES

SESSION FOUR

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

One in Christ

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

NOTES

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

NOTES

SESSION FIVE

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

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

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which
was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of
all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable
riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery
hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

NOTES

SESSION SIX

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

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

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

NOTES

SESSION SEVEN

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Unity in the Body of Christ

⁴ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,

and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

NOTES

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

NOTES

SESSION EIGHT

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

The New Life

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

NOTES

²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

NOTES

SESSION NINE

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

Walk in Love

⁵ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not

become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

NOTES

¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

NOTES

SESSION TEN

EPHESIANS 5:22–6:4

Wives and Husbands

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

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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Children and Parents

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

NOTES

SESSION ELEVEN

EPHESIANS 6:5-9

Bondservants and Masters

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

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SESSION TWELVE

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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Final Greetings

²¹So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²²I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

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