

Ephesians Bible Study: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

by Heather J. Jonsson, COPYRIGHT 2023



Hello Beautiful One,

You are about to embark on a grand treasure hunt, bursting with wild adventure and glorious views. How do I know this to be true? Because I am alongside you on this journey. I know what it is like to slowly unravel the knotted up riddles of the Bible, and I have mined clues in the most surprising of places.

But far more than academic investigation, I continue to uncover words that match my emotions, giving expression to the depth of my soul. And I am not only speaking of the joyous feelings. I'm also referring to the unsettling emotions that serve as a reminder of the place where I pitch my earth-bound tent - emotions such as disappointment, heartbreak and sorrow.

And what about you? Why do you study the Word of God?

If it isn't a checklist, then what is it? And why is it important?

I pray you come to discover that if God is our treasure, then the Bible becomes our treasure map. I make you this promise, as you mine God's Word He will whisper treasures untold into your heart. This is not because these treasures have never been spoken before, but because they have never been spoken to YOU before.

Thank you for joining me on this treasure hunt.

After finishing your Bible study for the week, please go to <https://heatherjonsson.com/boldmercies/> to access a free 10-minutes teaching session on Ephesians by chapter.

Until next time,

Heather



Week One

Every Spiritual Blessing



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the Christ with *every spiritual blessing*."

John 12:23-24



Before You Begin



- For those who are new to Bible Study, commit to a time of day and location. Committing to a location may seem like a silly thing, but it is far easier to begin when all your items are in the right place at the right time. If you keep all your Bible study material together, then hopefully you will save the trouble of using a few precious moments searching the entire home for your missing glasses. (I speak from experience!)
- Gather and sharpen a few colored pencils and find a black ballpoint pen.
- Use an index card to keep track of the keywords notated in the lessons. I like to write the keywords on the index card and then color code the keyword as I will in my Bible. For example, I put a blue box around *faith* or *believe*. *Love* has a red heart around it. Purple squiggles surround *grace* like a cloud. Use Color. Be creative. Keep it simple! (If you want to get ahead of the game, you can make your index card early. The majority of keywords are notated on Day One and Day Two, but we will add words as we go.)
- Stay flexible! Just like stretching is good for our physical health, we will stretch our Bible Study habits. We won't simply read and answer questions. Instead, we will draw pictures, make charts, mark keywords, paraphrase and define. I love incorporating many parts of our mind during Bible study. So if you hate charts, do them anyway. If you are like me and can only draw stick figures, do it anyway. Stay flexible.

- There are five days of study, but don't only study for five days! With extra days built in you should not fall far behind, but if you finish in five days go back and read through through chapter. These extra days are a great time to dig a little deeper and look up some cross references or historical background we did not have time to cover in the first five days.
- Lastly, you will find I do not include many application questions. This is strategic. There is so much personal application to draw from Ephesians, and yours will come by way of the Holy Spirit through prayer. At the end of each day's reading, I leave room to take the verses you just studied and pray them back to the Father. This might seem awkward at first, but don't neglect this part. I believe this is the most vital part of this study. I give you an example on Day Two.
- On Sunday night place your Bible, these journal pages, pencils, and your reading glasses in your location of choice so they are ready for Monday.
- Note: You may want to use a journal for notes and prayers instead of these pages. That is completely OK! Just tuck these pages into the journal before you begin.

Daily Reading

Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ephesians 1 	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

As you read, repeated keywords and key phrases form patterns in your mind. We mark keywords for several reasons: it slows down our reading of familiar passages, it helps with recall, and it opens the doors for our minds to connect Biblical themes from Genesis to Revelations.

Day One of each week will consist of reading a Chapter and marking every reference to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Ephesians teaches us quite a bit about the Holy Spirit, so write down what you learn about he Holy Spirit in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

Don't get bogged down in the details. We will go back through each verse. Day One of each week is for us to see the big picture.

TUES	● Ephesians 1:1-14	Grace Peace Love Riches Unite/Unity Hope Believe Blood Heavenly Places
-------------	--------------------	--

As you read today's passage mark the keywords.

Although our English Bible has injected periods and comas for clarity, verses 3-14 are actually one long run-on sentence. This is important to note because verses 3-14 has one theme. Did you see it?

Read through these verses one more time and circle every instance of "in Christ/in Him/in the Beloved."

Make a list below of your spiritual blessings in Christ:

Prayer of application: *Father, my heart is bursting with thanks because you blessed with every spiritual blessing in your Son, the Beloved. I am so completely undeserving of these blessings, and yet, in love, you chose to give them to me...freely. And all of it because I am in Jesus. Thank you seems to simple of a word, but for lack of a more grandiose word, thank you that I was chosen before the foundation of the world for adoption as your daughter. Your grace is indeed glorious. Thank you for redemption through Jesus' blood and the forgiveness of my trespasses. Your grace is lavishly rich. Thank you for a future inheritance, sealed by the Holy Spirit. My hope is secure in you! My life is yours, Father. May it all be to the praise of your glory!*

WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ephesians 1: 15-19	Add these words to your index card: Power/Might
------------	--	--

Put a box around "*For this reason...*" We will put a box around many conjunctions such as *therefore, for this reason, then, but*. As most of our English teachers told us, when you see a *therefore* you must ask "what is it there for?" Answering this question highlights the Biblical authors connection between thoughts and themes. Therefore, following our High School English teachers example we will do the same thing. (Haha. Did you see what I did there?)

Ask yourself, *for what reason?*

What two things stood out to Paul about the Church in Ephesus?

In Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, what three things did He pray they know?

Prayer of application:

THURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ephesians 1:19-23	
--------------	---	--

You uncovered some beautiful gems about Jesus today. What did you learn?

Draw a stick figure below. Allow this to represent the Body of Christ. Where are "all things?" (verse 22) Add these to your drawing. How does Paul describe God's power? Write this over the body as if it is the blood coursing through the veins. What truth stands out to you most about this drawing? (Aside from the fact that it might be a poor drawing.)

Prayer of application:

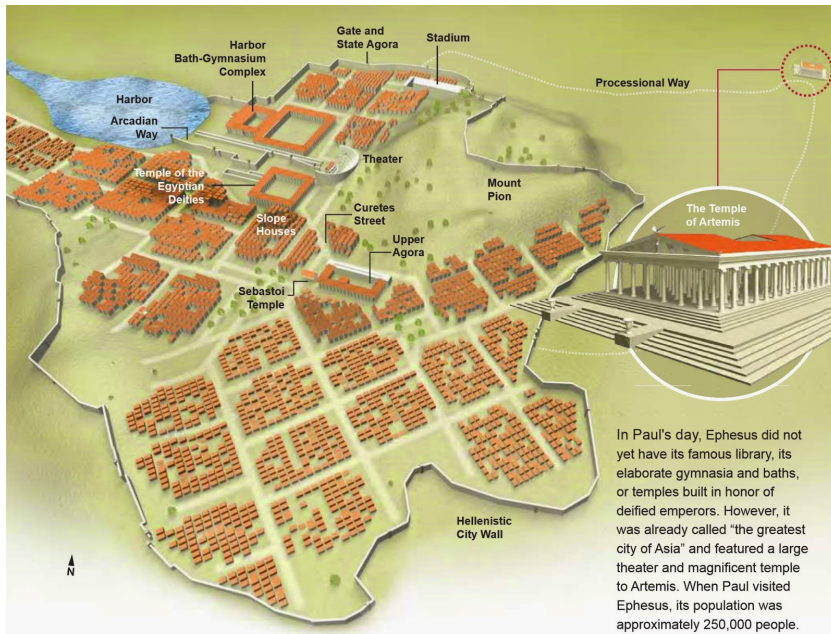
**OPTIONAL
BUT HELPFUL:**

Acts 19:1-21:1

Paul went through Ephesus on his third missionary journey. Below is a map of Ephesus. By looking at the map, what can you learn about Ephesus?

Ephesus, even in Paul's day, was an affluent, cosmopolitan city. What clues from the map point to this fact?





In Paul's day, Ephesus did not yet have its famous library, its elaborate gymnasia and baths, or temples built in honor of deified emperors. However, it was already called "the greatest city of Asia" and featured a large theater and magnificent temple to Artemis. When Paul visited Ephesus, its population was approximately 250,000 people.

Ephesus in Paul's Day

Ephesus was a thriving port in the first century, situated on the only major east-west road system in the area. Nearly a century had passed since it had last been invaded. The city was proud and prosperous, and a strong Jewish community thrived there.



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2011 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

Praise God! Week One Complete!

© Heather J Jonsson

Week Two

Alive in Christ



"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us *alive together with Christ* - by grace you have been saved."

Ephesians 2:4-5

I hope that week one was strengthening. I was praying for you! Like Paul, I prayed that the "Father of Glory may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation, in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened." Personally, I was emboldened to walk more fully in the power and might of God. We have all the strength we need to do this, whatever the "this" might be for you right now, through Him who raised Jesus to life.

Daily Reading



Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ephesians 2	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

Read through Ephesians chapter 2. Mark every reference to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn about the trinity in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

First and foremost, the Bible reveals to us the character and attributes of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because God is my treasure, then the Bible is my treasure map.

Don't get bogged down in the multitude of he/him pronouns. It takes more detailed study to sparse which pronoun stands for which person of the trinity. We will go back through each verse. Allow Day One to paint the big picture.

TUES	● Ephesians 2: 1-3	Add these words to your index card: All references to demonic power/Satan Sin/trespases
-------------	--------------------	---

Before Jesus, we were not drowning in need a lifesaver, we were dead in need of resurrection. In your own words describe the characteristics of the "sons of disobedience."

Who is the "prince of the power of the air."

Read Luke 4:1-8. What did Satan say when he showed Jesus the kingdoms of this world?

Don't allow your knees to start knocking at the mention of Satan's authority! Trivial as it is compared to God, think about the difference between a town Mayor and the President. One has jurisdiction, and one has ultimate power. While Satan has been handed jurisdiction, he has not by any means been given ultimate rule. The alone belongs to our God!

Prayer of Application:

WED

- Ephesians 2:4-9

Circle, star, put exclamations around the phrase "But God..." In other words, mark it with emphasis. Make a list below detailing *who* God is, *what* He does, and *why* He does it.

In chapter 1 you studied 2 verses very similar to Ephesians 2:5-6. Do you recall them? Like a reflection cast upon a mirror, what God did for Jesus, God also did for us. Go back to the picture you drew last week. Draw a cloud around the picture of the Body of Christ and write "*in the heavenly places*" around the cloud. What are the implications of our being "seated with Him in the heavenly places"?

One last thing, hopefully you saw and marked the keyword "rich" in verses 4 and 7. If you missed it, no problem! Go back and mark them now. God is both *rich in mercy* and shows *immeasurable riches of grace*. Look up both "mercy" and "grace" in a dictionary (An online dictionary is just fine). Write the definition below.

Can you give an example of each one from your own life?

Prayer of application:

THURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ephesians 2:10-17 	Add to your index card: Peace
--------------	---	--------------------------------------

Circle *Therefore*. Let's do this! Skim the verses preceding *therefore*, and also verse 11. What do you think the *therefore* is *there for*?

Make a list of everything Paul calls the Ephesian Christians (and us) to *remember*? Since there is no condemnation in Christ, why do you think Paul tells us to remember? If you have studied parts of the Old Testament, you may recall that *remembering* weaves like gold thread in a tapestry. Sometimes Moses tells the Israelites to *remember*, and sometimes God Himself says He will *remember*. Remembering is covenantal language. If you have some extra time you may want to cross reference these verses. (Genesis 9:15; Leviticus 26:42, 45; Deuteronomy 5:15, 8:2, 8:18, 24:18)

Circle "*but now*" and "*in Christ Jesus*" What difference does Jesus make? Paraphrase what Jesus accomplished by His death and resurrection.

Prayer of application:

FRI	Ephesians 2:18-22	Add to your index card: Household/foundation/temple/dwelling
------------	-------------------	---

Both verse 18 and 22 speak about the trinity. What do you learn about the trinity from these verses?

Sometimes spiritual concepts, which feel somewhat mysterious, are made more concrete by a simple drawing. Can you illustrate both verses in a two simple drawings?

Contrast who we were and who we are now. (It may prove helpful to remember the newly formed community in Ephesus was an amalgamation of differing cultures, races, and background religions.)

Who we were:

Who we are now:

Prayer of application:

 *Praise God! Week Two Complete!* 

Week Three

Unsearchable Riches



"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, and
to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God,
who created all things"
Ephesians 3:8-9

*Sometimes even the best of intentions fall prey to competing priorities.
I'm praying you will persevere and find great joy in Him. When I was a child I learned
some of the Westminster Catechism. I honestly only remember the
first question and answer, but although short and sweet it packs quite a punch. Here it is...*

What is the chief end of man?

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Keep this joy your focus in the midst of your varying priorities, or even in our detailed Bible Study.



Daily Reading



Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ephesians 3	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

Read through Ephesians chapter 3. Mark every reference to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn about the trinity in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

TUES	● Ephesians 3:1-6	Add these words to your index card: Mystery
-------------	-------------------	--

How does Paul describe himself in verse 1?

As we learned in Week One, when Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians he was a prisoner of Rome. House arrest was a common form of prison for Rome, with the prisoner often chained to their guard. If you didn't read Acts 20 in Week One, go back and read verses 16-38. *Paul gladly went into physical chains because his heart was already tethered to the gospel.* Put yourself in Paul's shoes. How would you respond to being imprisoned by your government? Would you be shouting it was unfair or unjust? Or would you respond like Paul? You and I will probably never be imprisoned for the gospel, but at some point our suffering and pain may feel like chains. What are your chains now? Can you submit to your "physical chains" for the sake of God's purpose in and through you?

Thankfully, the mystery of Christ is clearly spelled out in this passage. What is the three fold mystery spoken about in verse 6? How was the mystery revealed to Paul?

Prayer of Application:

WED

- Ephesians 3:7-13

Almost over 2000 years after Paul wrote Ephesians, we may find it hard to be startled about the "plan of the mystery" of God, namely that the Gentiles are fellow heirs with the people of Israel and members of the same body and partakers of the promises. But if we put ourselves in the synagogue-attending, command-following, covenant-abiding people, then this news would have come as a shock. Up until this point, what has been the attitude of the children of God (the Jews) towards the Gentiles? (For example, think Canaanites, Babylonians, and Samaritans) I wonder how deeply entrenched were their prejudices?

In Ephesians 1 and 2 we have already seen the idea of one-ness and unity. Locate some of these passages. What do you learn?

How long was the mystery hidden? (v 9, 11)

Circle "so that" in verse 10. What does the "so that..." recorded in verse 10 teach us? (See also Ephesians 1:16-21)

Continue writing verse 12 below by writing one word per line as you consider the impact of this verse:

In

Whom

We

Prayer of application:

THURS	● Ephesians 3: 14-21	
--------------	----------------------	--

This passage is like the dramatic crescendo at the end of a symphony, one that takes your breath away and leaves you amazed!

Circle "for this reason." Skim back over yesterday's verses and then answer, for *what* reason?

Ephesians 1-3 gave us a glimpse into the *riches* of the trinity. Summarize what you have learned in chapters 1-3 about God's riches. (This is one reason why marking key words is so helpful during Bible Study. Since you have been marking *riches* you should be able to more easily find this key word.)

Complete these phrases using the prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesians in verses 14-19.

God's riches of glory will grant you...

Christ will dwell in your heart by...

You will be rooted and grounded in...

You will have strength...

You will know...

So that you will be...

We often hear Ephesians 3:20-21 quoted in response to our intercessory prayer requests. While I completely believe God is able to heal our loved ones, and restore broken relationships, and give protection to your children, from studying verses 14-19 we saw those intercessory prayer requests are not the objective of "far more abundantly than all we ask or think." Summarize what He provides us that is far more abundant than we can ask or think?

For what purposes?

Prayer of application:

FRI	Ephesians 1-3	
------------	---------------	--

Today, read back over chapters 1 - 3. During the first three weeks we have pulled at the threads of several different themes, now let's take a step back and enjoy the full tapestry.

Prayer of application:

Praise God! Week Three Complete!

© Heather J Jonsson

Week Four

Walk Worthy



"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."
Ephesians 4:1

In Chapters 1-3 we focused on the riches of God and the many spiritual blessings we have in Him. In Chapters 4-6 we will look at how we should walk in a manner worthy of all we learned in chapters 1-3. Before we begin I want to note that many of us just plain don't like being told what to do. We steer so far from legalism that sometimes we risk falling away from the righteousness He has called us to, and equipped us for. So as we dive into Ephesians 4-6, don't lose sight of all we previously learned. Remember, walking worthy of God's call is a matter of the heart and not in the slightest about keeping the outside of our cup squeaky clean. We seek to be holy vessels, not whitewashed tombs. After all, He is "over all and through all and in all." Therefore only in Him can we walk worthy, or He wouldn't have called us to it!



Daily Reading



Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ephesians 4	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

Read through Ephesians chapter 4. Mark every reference to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn about the trinity in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

TUES	● Ephesians 4:1-10	Add these words to your index card: Unity/One/Oneness
-------------	--------------------	--

Just a friendly reminder to begin each day by reading the passage and marking the keywords. Then move on to the study below.

How does Paul describe himself in verse 1? We have already read Paul describing himself as a “prisoner of Christ.” Do you remember where else in Ephesians does He do this?

What does Paul tell the Ephesians it looks like to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?”

In your own words, how would you describe the calling of God?

With the *unity of the Spirit* in mind, Paul details the *oneness* of faith in Jesus. For example, “There is one body.” Make a list below of all that Paul’s highlights as *one*. Then reread Ephesians 2:13-18 and add these to the list. What does this teach us about the unity God desires for His church?

There is ONE:

(If you have extra time today reference Romans 12:3-8. How does this help expound on Ephesians 4:7? If your time is limited, jump down to the next question.)

In closing, verse 8 includes a quote from the Old Testament. When we study in the New Testament and run across a scripture quoted from the Old Testament, we want to look it up in the original context. This offers a framework by which to grasp a more robust understanding of the passage. Verse 8 is taken from Psalm 68, so go ahead and read Psalm 68:15-27. According to Psalm 68, what has God done for you?

Prayer of Application:

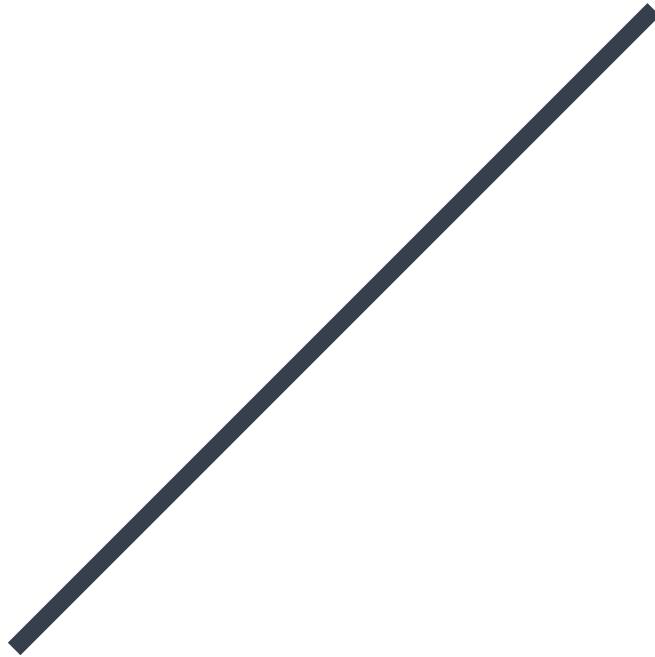
WED	● Ephesians 4:11-16	Add these words to your index card: Build up/Grow up
------------	---------------------	---

As we are built up into the body of Christ, what is the goal or the aim as explained by Paul? (Ephesians 4:13)

As we study Ephesians we see that the theme of unity weaves it way throughout like shoelaces on a tennis shoe. I can't help but think about the divided nature of our current American church. What has God been speaking directly to you regarding unity? How do we pursue unity when people have such differing views? (For reference: Ephesians 1:7-10; 2:11-22; 3:6-10, 21)

Circle "so that" in verse 14. What is the purpose of the building up of the church?

Verse 14 stands in contrast to verses 15-16. Circle the conjunction “rather” in verse 15 and write it over the line below. Draw a picture illustrating verse 14 on the left side of the line and then illustrate verses 15-16 on the right side. (If you are on Instagram click on my profile to see my poorly drawn, coffee stained creation.)



Prayer of application:

THURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephesians 4: 17-24 	
--------------	--	--

Paraphrase how we are **not** to walk:

What propels us from our “old self” to our “new self?” (verse 23) Do any other verses in the New Testament come to mind when you read this verse. (If not, no problem! The farther we come in our understanding of God’s Word, the more our mind will be able to pull together thematic ideas like two strings tied up in a bow.) How does verse 23 contrast to verse 17?

There are a myriad of ways you can be “renewed in your mind.” Can you think of a few? (If you have time you might want to look at these verses: Titus 3:5, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Ephesians 1:16-18, Philippians 4:8)

Prayer of application:

FRI	Ephesians 4: 25-32	
------------	--------------------	--

Beginning here in verse 25 and going into Chapter 5, Paul details the “old self” and the “new self.” In verses 25-32 we see several specific contrasts between *who we were* and *who we are now/who we are becoming*. Find those contrasts and fill in the chart below.

OLD SELF:

NEW SELF:

--	--

Prayer of application:

Praise God! Week Four Complete!

© Heather J Jonsson



Week Five

Learning to Walk

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love,
as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us."

Ephesians 5:1

*Currently I have a limp due to a minor back issue. Over the past few days
all I have heard from my teenage daughter and my niece is
how funny I look. Teenagers keep it real that way!*

*Last night my niece endearingly likened my walk to the dance, "Stanky Legs." Some of you
might remember this viral song, giving you a clear vision of what I look like exiting a room.*

It's all in good humor, and believe me, I'm laughing about my gait as much as them!

However, this laughter accentuates the reality that other people notice our walk.

(And hopefully give great

amounts of grace and kindness to people with a permanent limp!)

The truth is that the way we walk is an outward sign of what is

happening on the inside. As we already saw in Chapter 4,

*the inner work of the Trinity pushes outward, impacting our attitudes, actions,
relationships, and the church body as a whole.*

So let's dive into this week, eager to continue walking worthy of our call.



Daily Reading

Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephesians 5 	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

Read through Ephesians chapter 5. Mark every reference to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn about the trinity in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

TUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephesians 5:1-7 	
------	---	--

Paul divides the first part of Ephesians 5 into three chunks of scripture. Each portion details how we should "walk." In Chapter 4 we looked at how we "walk worthy of our calling." Over the next three days we will continue this journey by studying three additional ways Paul details we, as the body of Christ, should "walk."

Using verses 1-6, complete this sentence: Walk _____

In these verses Paul continues the contrast between the "old self" and the "new self, which began in Chapter 4. Find the contrasts and fill out the chart below. (Make sure you don't miss the contrast between vs 2 and 3 marked by the word "but.")

OLD SELF:

NEW SELF:

--	--

Lastly, why are we to imitate God?

Have you ever had someone tell you that your children are just like you? Perhaps not only in the way they look, but also in their mannerisms and the sound of their voice? Our family moved to Tampa when Shae, my oldest daughter, was a Junior. I remember the shock her friends expressed the first time they met me. With laughter, one of her friends said he now completely understood why Shae is the way she is! She is my mini-me. As much as our kids might try to avoid it, they cannot help but imitate the people who raised them. It's an obvious lesson, but one that is worth repeating. Six weeks of studying Ephesians *will* reap a harvest. *You will become more like Jesus.* And isn't that always the goal?

Prayer of application:

WED

- Ephesians 5: 8-14

Use verses 8-14 to complete this sentence: Walk _____

Summarize what it looks like to walk as children of light:

In this passage Paul contrasts light and darkness. Use the chart below to help detail this contrast.

LIGHT:

DARKNESS:

--	--

How might we, the body of Christ, expose the "unfruitful works of darkness?" (Read I Timothy 5:17-20; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; and Titus 1:7-9. These verses also contain the same verb "expose." I believe it is important to note that Paul wrote 1 and 2 Timothy to his co-laborer, Timothy, as he pastored the church in Ephesus. Perhaps what Paul noticed festering when he wrote Ephesians continued to grow, so that by the time Timothy was leading this church Paul felt the need to address this issue again.)

There are several thoughts about what Paul quoted in Ephesians 5:14. While we don't know for sure, many assume it was a familiar hymn. According to verses 13-14, what is the hope of exposing the unfruitful works of darkness?

Prayer of application:

THURS	● Ephesians 5: 15-21	
--------------	----------------------	--

Use verses 15-21 to complete this sentence: Walk _____

Just as Paul previously contrasted light and darkness, He uses this passage to contrast wisdom and foolishness, or being wise versus being unwise. Use the chart below to detail the contrast.

UNWISE:

WISE:

--	--

Using your device or dictionary, look up the word *foolish* and list a few synonyms below. How would you define Godly wisdom? (Use verses 15-17 to help direct your thoughts.)

While living in Amman, Jordan, I was tremendously blessed by the faith of a few Godly women. Sometimes during conversations a lady would break out in song, with the others joining in; or one would pause mid-sentence and begin praying. Until this point in my life I had not seen verses 19-20 applied quite like it was among these women, nor have I seen it since. How might we fill our conversation like Paul instructs? What difference would it make for our friendships and our faith?

Prayer of application:

FRI	Ephesians 5: 22-33	
------------	--------------------	--

Before we begin, I think it is worth stating that when this letter was read aloud to the church in Ephesus they would have noticed that Paul grants deference to women by addressing them first, and perhaps they would find it just as startling that he gives the wife agency. Instead of saying, "Men, make your wives submit," Paul's letter begins with, "wives submit," and then he directs the bulk of his writing towards the husband's call to sacrificially love their wives.

Think about your own submission to Jesus. In what ways do you submit to a loving Lord? Why do you submit? Do you submit to Christ out of fear or out of love? When is it hard to submit to the Lord?

This has been the week for charts! If it's your jam, I'm here for you! If not, I promise next week doesn't have any charts! So here is our last one for the week!

Using the chart on the next page list everything you learn about Christ and the Church.

CHRIST:

THE CHURCH:

--	--

What mystery does this explain?

Prayer of application:



Praise God! Week Five Complete!



Week Six

Stand Firm



"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

Ephesians 6:10

Congratulations (if congratulations is the correct word), you arrived at the last chapter of Ephesians!! I know from experience it takes diligence to prioritize time in the Word, but it is worth it. You are either being shaped by the world or shaped by the word, and you made the right decision.

Thank you for joining me in this journey!



Daily Reading



Day	Scripture Reading	Keywords to Mark
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ephesians 6	God the Father Jesus Holy Spirit

Read through Ephesians chapter 6. Mark every reference to God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Write down what you learn about the trinity in the margin of your Bible. Or, if your Bible doesn't have wide enough margins, write down what you learned in the space below.

TUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ephesians 6:1-9	
-------------	---	--

After Paul wrote Ephesians, Tychicus hand delivered the letter to Ephesus. Tychicus not only would have read the letter to the churches in Ephesus, but he also was available to answer people's inquiries about Paul. (Remember, Paul spent several years in Ephesus and the body of Christ there no doubt loved him.)

I imagine a few people squirming in their seats as the familial guide lines were read aloud. Perhaps a few smart aleck 10 year olds, or rage-prone Fathers felt the sideways glares from those their actions impacted. The household of God is precious to Him, and He longs for sacrificial, safe, and honoring behavior.

Read aloud through the household guidelines one more time, beginning at Ephesians 5:22. As you read imagine yourself sitting alongside your family, your children, your parents, your employees, or your employer.

Before you begin, I want to talk about the idea of slavery in the ancient world. For far too long Americans misused the verses from Ephesians 6 to justify human ownership and perpetuate the cruelty of slavery on American soil. However, the slavery Paul spoke of often looked different, with temporary enslavement and the notable inclusion of slaves into a household. Often a debt was owed and slavery ensured the payment; and while it is never right to enslave another, Old Testament law set limits to the years they served. I wonder what would have happened in the 1800's if business leaders sat alongside their servants hearing the truth of Ephesians 6 read aloud to all gathered. The convicting truth may have changed the course of history.

Prayer of application:

WED

- Ephesians 6: 10-17

Circle the word *finally*. Summarize the final words Paul gives the church at Ephesus.

Go back and circle all the verbs and list them below. How does this impact your thoughts about using the armor of God?

What is the opposite of the verb, "to stand?"

Give some examples of what may cause you to *not* stand firm. (Both internally and externally)

How does this armor *help* to you stand firm?

Fellow warriors in faith, this is our last picture of Ephesians! Draw a picture of a warrior below. Label all the part of the armor, praying that the Spirit would remind you every morning to take up and put on the armor of God.

Prayer of application:

THURS

- Ephesians 6:18-24

While I love Bible Study, I am always trying to balance my devotional time between digging deep into the word and prayer. I've had some seasons where I do very little Bible Study and do a lot of prayer. Since Paul talks about prayer in this passage, I think it might be good to apply his words. I'll see you tomorrow in our last day of Ephesians.

Prayer of application:

FRI

Ephesians 1-6

As you wrap up our study today, please take the time to *listen* to all of Ephesians. I use the YouVersion app on my phone, but you can also listen online at Faith Comes by Hearing or Biblica. Try to avoid the temptation to multitask. Take a walk instead of doing dishes or making your daily to-do list. Or feel free to listen while you lay down in the grass outside your home. I pray your soul is refreshed.

See you on Saturday on the podcast!



Praise God! You completed Ephesians!



