



# TOGETHER

A STUDY ON EPHESIANS

LEADER GUIDE

Discipleship and Scripture. They just go together. At IF, we are passionate about discipleship and studying God's Word together. We believe that the Scriptures are the foundation for discipleship. With this study, we hope to provide a tool that encourages studying the Scriptures and guides you into a discipleship relationship.

This leader guide is meant to support you as you lead and provide additional questions for your discipleship pair or small group to discuss as you walk through this study together. We simply want to make your role a bit easier and provide a starting point to get the conversation going.

## LEADER EXPECTATIONS

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### GATHER AND FACILITATE CONVERSATION

We recommend that each person read the study daily. Then, once a week, gather as a discipleship pair or small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the questions provided in this guide.

### BUILD A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO GO DEEP

There are many ways to study together in a discipleship relationship. However you go about it, we ask that you create a simple and pure environment to come, pray, and learn about studying the Bible.

**Pray:** In preparation for your time together, spend time in prayer. Beg for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh and use your time together for God's glory. Pray that each person would gain a deeper love for God as you spend intentional time studying Ephesians together.

**Lean on God:** God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean into your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

**Be transparent:** You have the opportunity to set the tone for those around you. If you choose not to be vulnerable, other women may not feel the freedom to be honest. We encourage you to be honest and transparent, creating an environment for others to open up.

**Listen, but also lead:** When women are vulnerable, it is a tremendous risk that needs to be honored. Protect them by not interrupting and instead listening and empathizing. In love, point women back to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

**Model trust:** Be open with your group about how you are processing this study. Throughout the study, we must continue to seek God and ask for His help in understanding His Word. These women look to you for an example. We encourage you to be intentional in your relationship with God as we walk through the next six weeks.

## KEEP UNITY A CENTRAL VALUE

Your group likely has different experiences and backgrounds. As a leader, you have the responsibility to keep a spirit of unity within your group. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a safe environment for everyone to learn together. We encourage you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone as you learn and process this study together.

## SUPPLIES

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- IF:Equip study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app
- Leader Guide
- Bible

Optional: Daily videos. If the daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app are important to your discussion, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.



# WEEK ONE

1. What do you hope to get out of this study?
2. What are you most looking forward to learning about Ephesians?
3. How do you read your Bible?
4. What are your current barriers to studying the Bible?
5. How can the method of observation, interpretation, and application help you study the Scriptures?
6. What do you know about the book of Ephesians?
7. What do you know about its author, Paul?
8. Share how you processed this question in day 3 of the study: How can you accept the grace and peace God has to offer you and then give it to those you interact with?
9. How have you experienced spiritual blessings from God?
10. How are you affected by Paul's prayer for the Ephesians at the end of chapter one?
11. What did you learn this week?



## WEEK TWO

1. What does it mean to be spiritually dead? How can you relate to that?
2. Do you need Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Re-read Ephesians 2:4-5. What do the words “But God” at the beginning of verse 4 mean to you?
4. “For by grace you have been saved through faith.” (Ephesians 2:8). What does this truth mean to you?
5. Explain a time when God has restored a hostile relationship in your life.
6. If you have a difficult relationship with someone currently, how could God restore it?
7. Why is unity only possible in Christ?
8. In what ways do you need the peace of God today?
9. In what ways does our world need the peace of God?
10. Why is it important for Christ to be the cornerstone of the church?
11. What did you learn from Ephesians chapter 2?



## WEEK THREE

1. God is mysterious but we can still know Him. What truths about His character has God revealed to us?
2. What is the “mystery” Paul refers to in Ephesians chapter 3?
3. How does Paul’s humility inspire you to embrace the posture of humility before God and others?
4. Jews and Gentiles coming together in one body under Christ was quite the spectacle due to the hostility between them. Their joining together radiates God’s power and love for ALL His people. Explain a time when you have witnessed God do the impossible.
5. How does God’s care and love for you move in a way that produces praise?
6. In what ways do you need to receive God’s great love for you today?
7. How does God’s love for you help you to better love others, especially when it’s hard?
8. How has God done immeasurably more than you ever imagined in your life?
9. In what ways would you like Him to do abundantly more than you could even ask for?
10. What did you learn from Ephesians chapter 3?



## WEEK FOUR

1. We have learned about who we are in Christ by studying Ephesians 1-3. Now we will learn about how to walk out our faith in Christ by studying Ephesians 4-6. How does knowing who we are in Christ help us walk out our faith in Christ?
2. What are you doing to maintain unity among fellow believers?
3. What is it so important to believe that there is one God who is above all things?
4. How can God use the gifts He has given you to build up the body of Christ?
5. How can we speak the truth in love to one another?
6. How can you put off your old self each day and walk in your new self?
7. How can you speak the truth and defend the truth in all areas of your life?
8. What would it look like for you to give all your anger to Jesus?
9. What would it look like for you to build others up with your words today?
10. What did you learn from Ephesians 4?



## WEEK FIVE

1. What does it look like for you to imitate God in your daily life?
2. Why is it easier to love others when you remember that Christ loved you first?
3. When light enters, darkness has to flee. How have you experienced the power of light—Jesus Christ—in your life? How has He pushed back the darkness?
4. How can you walk wisely in each part of your day?
5. How can you practice gratefulness and cultivate a heart of thanksgiving to the Lord? What are you thankful for today?
6. God relates husbands and wives to Christ and His church. What do you think about this analogy?
7. How can loving and respectful submission lead to unity in all types of relationships?
8. Both the husband and wife have difficult callings to sacrifice for one another. Isn't this what Jesus did for us? How can you accept the sacrifice Jesus made for you and sacrifice your own desires for the sake of others?
9. What did you learn from Ephesians chapter 5?





## WEEK SIX

1. Paul exhorts us to serve one another. How can we not only do this externally, but have an internal attitude of service?
2. In verses 1-3, Paul gives commands to children and parents. What do these commands tell us about a parent/child relationship?
3. Name an area of your life where you need to stand firm, be strong in the Lord and believe His truth?
4. When we believe the truth that Christ has won the victory over sin, death and Satan, how does this help us stand our ground against the spiritual forces of evil?
5. What are you most thankful for about the armor God has provided us?
6. How can you utilize the armor of God to protect yourself from the schemes of the devil?
7. Do you ask others to pray for you? Why or why not? How can we be vulnerable with each other in a way that allows God to encourage and support us through fellow believers?
8. Why is God's grace necessary for obtaining the peace of God?
9. What did learn from Ephesians chapter 6?
10. What is your takeaway from Ephesians as a whole?