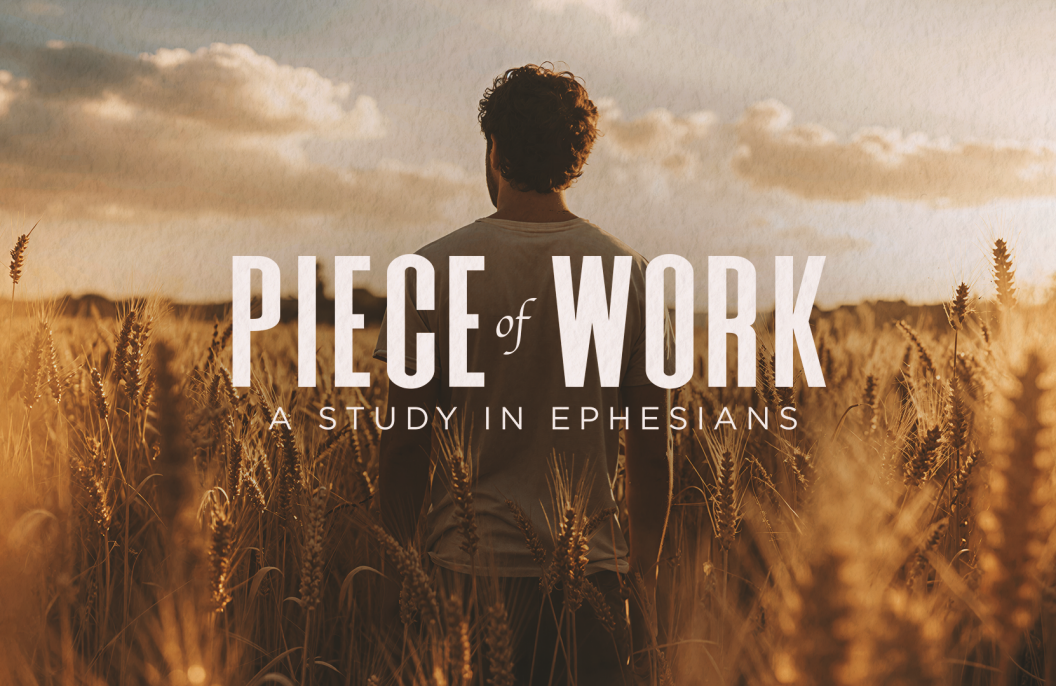




PIECE *of* WORK

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

COMPLETE STUDY

Piece of Work

A Study in Ephesians

WEEKS 1-8 • DEVOTIONALS & SMALL GROUP GUIDES

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WEEK ONE

Who You Are in Christ

Ephesians 1:1-14

Discovering Your Identity in Christ

DAY 1

Chosen Before Time Began

READING · EPHESIANS 1:3–6

Before the first star ignited, before mountains rose from the earth, before time itself began its march forward, God chose you. This isn't about your résumé or your track record. His choice preceded your first breath, your first mistake, your first victory. The world demands you earn your place at the table, but God reserved your seat before the foundation of the world. Today, let this truth silence the voices telling you to prove your worth. You don't audition for God's love; you've already been cast in His story. When insecurity whispers that you're not enough, remember: His choice of you wasn't impulsive—it was eternal, intentional, and irrevocable.

REFLECTION

*Where are you seeking validation that God has already given you?
How does knowing you were chosen before creation change how you see yourself today?*

DAY 2

Redeemed by the Blood

READING · EPHESIANS 1:7–10; 1 PETER 1:18–19

Redemption means God didn't overlook your sin—He paid for it. The cross wasn't God turning a blind eye; it was God opening His arms. Every failure, every regret, every moment of shame carried a price tag, and Jesus said, “I’ll cover it.” You weren't purchased with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ. Stop carrying guilt for debts already paid. The enemy wants you imprisoned by your past, but the receipt of Calvary declares: “Paid in full.” You belong to God twice—once by creation, again by redemption. Walk today not in the shadow of what you've done, but in the light of what He's done for you.

REFLECTION

What guilt or shame are you still carrying that Jesus already paid for? How can you live today in the freedom of redemption?

DAY 3

Sealed by the Holy Spirit

READING · EPHESIANS 1:13–14; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:21–22

When you believed, God didn't give you a certificate—He gave you His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon your life, His mark of ownership, His guarantee that you belong to Him. Ancient kings sealed important documents with their signet rings, declaring authenticity and authority. God has stamped you with His Spirit. Your security doesn't depend on how tightly you grip God, but on how firmly He holds you. On days when your faith feels weak, when prayer feels impossible, when you can barely stand—His grip doesn't loosen. You are marked, claimed, and secured not by your strength but by His promise. The Spirit within you is your inheritance guarantee.

REFLECTION

In what areas of life do you struggle to feel secure? How does the seal of the Holy Spirit speak to those insecurities?

DAY 4

Living from Identity, Not for Identity

READING · EPHESIANS 2:8–10; ROMANS 8:1–2

We spend our lives trying to become somebody, when God has already declared who we are. The gospel flips our striving upside down: you don't do to become; you do because you already are. You are chosen, redeemed, and sealed—now live from that reality. Good works aren't the ladder you climb to reach God's approval; they're the overflow of already having it. Stop performing for acceptance you already possess. Your worth isn't found in productivity, perfection, or people's opinions. It's anchored in Christ. Today, let your actions flow from the security of knowing whose you are, not

from the anxiety of proving who you are. You are His workmanship, created for good works He prepared beforehand.

REFLECTION

Are you trying to earn something God has already given you? What would change if you lived from your identity in Christ rather than for it?

DAY 5

Opening the Letter — Accessing Your Inheritance

READING · EPHESIANS 1:15–23; 2 PETER 1:3–4

Imagine inheriting millions but never opening the letter. Many believers live spiritually broke while possessing unlimited spiritual resources. God has given you everything pertaining to life and godliness. You have access to His power, His peace, His presence, and His promises. But access requires opening the letter—engaging Scripture, believing what God says about you, and walking in the authority He's given. You don't need more of God; you need to recognize what you already have in Him. Stop living beneath your inheritance. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you. Open the letter. Believe what it says. Walk in the fullness of who you are in Christ.

REFLECTION

What spiritual inheritance have you left unopened? How will you begin accessing God's power and promises today?

Who You Are in Christ

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: Share a time when you felt chosen for something—a team, a job, a relationship. How did being chosen make you feel? Open your time together in prayer, inviting God to remind each person of who they are in Christ.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message walks through Ephesians 1:1-14, reminding us of three foundational truths about our identity in Christ: we have been chosen, redeemed, and sealed. Pastor Jay emphasizes that our worth comes not from our performance but from what Christ has already done for us.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 1:4-7, 13-14

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses... you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1 · You Have Been Chosen

- 1 What does it mean to you that God chose you before the foundation of the world? How does this challenge the world's message that you must earn acceptance?
- 2 The message distinguished between “who you are” and “who you are in Christ.” What's the difference? Why is this distinction important?
- 3 Where do you typically seek validation—from work, relationships, social media, or achievements? How might knowing you're already chosen by God change this pattern?
- 4 Read Ephesians 1:5. What does being “adopted” into God's family mean to you personally? How is adoption different from just being created?

Part 2 · You Have Been Redeemed

- 1 Jesus doesn't overlook sin—He pays the price for it. Why is it important to understand that sin is serious, even though we're forgiven?
- 2 Reflect on the story of the boy and his boat. How does it illustrate what Jesus did for us? In what ways are you “His twice”?
- 3 Pastor Jay said, “Quit carrying the guilt and shame of your past.” What guilt or shame are you still carrying that Jesus has already paid for? What would it look like to lay that down today?
- 4 How does understanding redemption change the way you view your past mistakes and failures?

Part 3 · You Have Been Sealed

- 1 What does it mean to be “sealed with the Holy Spirit”? How does this seal function as God's guarantee?
- 2 Pastor Jay said, “Your security is not found in how tight you can hold on to God... your security is found in how tight God holds on to you.” How does this truth comfort you during spiritually weak moments?
- 3 Read Ephesians 1:13–14. The Holy Spirit is described as the “guarantee of our inheritance.” What inheritance do we have access to that we might be living without?
- 4 Living spiritually broke is like having an inheritance letter you never opened. What spiritual riches or promises have you not yet “opened” or claimed in your life?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **You are chosen** — God intentionally selected you before the world began.
- ✓ **You are redeemed** — Jesus paid the full price for your sins through His blood.
- ✓ **You are sealed** — the Holy Spirit marks you as belonging to God permanently.
- ✓ **Your worth is not based on performance** — your identity comes from what Christ has done, not what you do.
- ✓ Your salvation rests on God's promise, not your performance.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1 Identity Declaration

Each morning this week, speak aloud: “I am chosen. I am redeemed. I am sealed by God’s Holy Spirit.” Journal about how this daily reminder affects your thoughts and decisions.

Option 2 Open the Letter

Identify one area where you’ve been living “spiritually broke”—lacking joy, peace, power, or confidence in God’s love. Study what Scripture says about what you have access to in that area, and share your findings with the group next week.

Option 3 Release Guilt & Shame

Write down specific guilt or shame you’re carrying from your past. Pray over each item, acknowledging that Jesus has already paid the price, then destroy the list as a symbolic act of receiving God’s redemption.

Option 4 Encourage Someone Else

Think of someone who needs to be reminded of their identity in Christ. Reach out this week with a specific reminder of how God sees them—chosen, redeemed, and sealed.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- How have I been trying to earn my worth through performance rather than resting in who Christ says I am?
- What would change in my daily life if I truly believed I was chosen, redeemed, and sealed?
- Where am I seeking validation from the world instead of from God?
- What “inheritance” do I have access to that I haven’t been living in?

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for choosing you before the foundation of the world.
- Thank Jesus for redeeming you through His blood.
- Thank the Holy Spirit for sealing you as God's own.
- Ask God to help you live out of your identity in Christ rather than seeking validation from the world.
- Pray for any group members struggling to believe these truths about themselves.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we continue in Ephesians, exploring what we can do now that we know who we are in Christ. Come prepared to discuss how identity shapes action.



Stop seeking validation from people when you've already been accepted by God.

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK ONE

WEEK TWO

Open My Eyes

Ephesians 1:15-23

Eyes Wide Open to God's Glory

DAY 1

The Prayer of Gratitude

READING · EPHESIANS 1:15–16; COLOSSIANS 1:3–5

Before we ask God for anything, we must learn to thank Him for everything. Paul models this beautifully—he begins his prayer with gratitude for the faith and love evident in the Ephesian believers. Gratitude realigns our hearts with reality: God has been better to us than we deserve. When was the last time you thanked God not for what you're asking, but for what He's already done? Today, before presenting your requests, spend time recognizing His faithfulness in your past. List three blessings you've overlooked. Gratitude isn't just good manners; it's spiritual vision that sees God's hand at work even in ordinary moments.

REFLECTION

What evidence of God's work in your life have you been taking for granted?

DAY 2

Knowing God, Not Just Knowing About Him

READING · EPHESIANS 1:17; PHILIPPIANS 3:8–10

There's a profound difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally. The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew Scripture inside and out, yet Jesus said their hearts were far from Him. Paul's prayer is that believers would receive “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”—not intellectual knowledge alone, but intimate, experiential knowledge. You can memorize Psalm 23 and still not know the Shepherd. God desires relationship, not just religion. He wants your heart, not just your habits. Today, move beyond studying God to encountering God. Spend time in His presence not to learn something new, but to know Someone deeply.

REFLECTION

Is your relationship with God more about performance or intimacy?

DAY 3

The Hope That Anchors Your Soul

READING · EPHESIANS 1:18; TITUS 2:11–14

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking—it's confident expectation based on God's promises. Paul prays that our eyes would be opened to “the hope to which He has called you.” You are not defined by your worst day, your greatest failure, or your current struggle. You have been called, chosen, saved, and sealed by God. When people lose hope, they quit; when they have hope, they endure. The world says, “I hope things work out.” Christian hope declares, “I know my God is faithful, and I know how this story ends—in victory.” Your future is secure because Christ is coming again, not to a crucifixion but to a coronation.

REFLECTION

What disappointment is clouding your view of God's promised future?

DAY 4

You Are God's Treasured Inheritance

READING · EPHESIANS 1:18; DEUTERONOMY 7:6–8

Here's a staggering truth: you are not just inheriting something from God—you ARE God's inheritance. The Creator of the universe looks at His people and says, “Those are Mine, and they are precious to Me.” Your worth isn't determined by achievements, relationships, or status. The cross settles the question of your value. Jesus thought you were worth pursuing, worth redeeming, worth dying for. Many spend their lives searching for significance, but only your Creator can tell you who you are. You are treasured not because you've earned it, but because of His grace. Stop looking for validation in temporary things. Your identity is eternally secure in Christ.

REFLECTION

Where have you been seeking worth instead of receiving it from God?

DAY 5

Resurrection Power at Work in You

READING · EPHESIANS 1:19–23; ROMANS 8:11

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you today. Death had a perfect record until one Sunday morning when Jesus walked out of the tomb. That resurrection power—immeasurable, mighty, victorious—is available to you. Your confidence isn't in positive thinking or personal strength; it's rooted in the resurrection of Christ. If God conquered death, there's nothing He can't handle in your life. Jesus is not anxiously pacing heaven; He is seated at the right hand of the Father, reigning over every authority, every power, every name that can be named. Whatever has a name—depression, anxiety, fear, your situation—Jesus is above it. Pray with confidence today because your King is alive and reigning.

REFLECTION

What burden are you carrying that needs resurrection power applied to it today?

Open My Eyes

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Begin your time together by praying Paul's prayer: "Father, give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may truly see who You are and all that You've done for us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Ice Breaker: Share a time when you suddenly "saw" or understood something about God that changed your perspective on life or a difficult situation.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message walks through Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15–23. Paul shows us how to pray with gratitude for what God has already done, to pray for revelation so we truly know Him, and to pray with confidence grounded in the resurrection and reign of Jesus. Our greatest need isn't better circumstances—it's to have the eyes of our hearts opened to who God is.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 1:18–19

...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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1 · Pray with Gratitude (vv. 15–16)

- 1 Paul begins his prayer with thanksgiving before making any requests. How does this contrast with the way we typically pray?
- 2 Pastor Jay said, “Sometimes we become so focused on what God hasn’t done yet that we completely overlook what He’s already done.” What are some specific things God has already done in your life that you can thank Him for today?
- 3 Paul thanks God for the Ephesians’ faith and love—things that were visible and producing fruit. What evidence of God’s work in your life might others be able to see?
- 4 Challenge: How might starting your prayers with gratitude change your perspective on your current circumstances?

Part 2 · Pray for Revelation (vv. 17–19)

- 1 “Knowing about God doesn’t mean you really know Him.” What’s the difference between intellectual knowledge of God and personal, intimate knowledge of Him?
- 2 Paul prayed for three specific revelations: the hope of God’s calling, the riches of God’s inheritance in the saints (our value to God), and the immeasurable greatness of God’s power. Which of these three do you most need God to open your eyes to right now? Why?
- 3 Pastor Jay said, “You are treasured by God...not because you’ve earned it, but because of His grace and mercy.” How does understanding that you are God’s inheritance change the way you see yourself?
- 4 Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Why is it necessary for God to supernaturally open our spiritual eyes? What does this tell us about our need for the Holy Spirit?

Part 3 · Pray with Confidence (vv. 20–23)

- 1 Paul grounds his confidence in prayer on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How does the resurrection give us confidence when we pray?
- 2 “Jesus is above every name that can be named.” What specific “names”—fears, struggles, circumstances—in your life do you need to remember Jesus is above?
- 3 Jesus is described as being “seated” at the right hand of God, signifying His finished work. How does knowing that Jesus’ work is complete affect your relationship with God?
- 4 “The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in your life.” How should this truth impact the way you face challenges this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Know better to do better** — growing in the knowledge of God is the root of spiritual growth.
- ✓ **Relationship, not religion** — God isn't looking for polished performances, but surrendered hearts.
- ✓ **Gratitude first** — prayer recognizes God's goodness before it brings requests.
- ✓ **Our deepest need is God Himself** — not better circumstances, but a deeper knowledge of Him.
- ✓ **You are treasured** — the cross settles the question of your value.
- ✓ **Pray with confidence** — Jesus is alive, reigning, and still opening eyes today.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one (or more) of the following to practice this week:

Option 1 Start a Gratitude Prayer Journal

Before making any requests in prayer, write down at least three things you're thankful for that God has already done.

Option 2 Memorize Ephesians 1:18–19

Hide God's Word in your heart by memorizing Paul's prayer, and recite it daily as your own prayer.

Option 3 Identify Your “Names”

List the fears, struggles, or circumstances that feel overwhelming. Write “Jesus is above...” over each one, then pray through the list, surrendering each to Christ's authority.

Option 4 Share Your Story

Tell someone this week about evidence of God's work in your life—your faith, your love for others, or a specific way God has been faithful.

Option 5 Study the Resurrection

Read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, or John 20–21) and reflect on what it means for your daily life and future hope.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- Am I growing in my knowledge of God each day, or have I become complacent?
- What would change in my life if I truly believed I am treasured by God?
- Where have I been looking at the size of my problems instead of the size of my God?

- What does it look like to surrender my heart to God rather than just perform religious activities?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, open the eyes of our hearts. Help us to see the hope we have in Christ, to understand how precious we are to You, and to experience Your resurrection power at work in our lives. We confess that we often focus on our circumstances instead of on You. Turn our eyes to Jesus, the risen and reigning King. May we know You better today than we did yesterday. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LEADER NOTES

- Create a safe environment where people feel comfortable sharing struggles and doubts.
- Be prepared to share first if the group is hesitant to open up.
- Don't rush. It's better to discuss fewer questions deeply than to cover everything superficially.
- Encourage practical application—help members identify specific, concrete steps for the week.
- Follow up with group members during the week about their application commitments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 2:1–10 in preparation for next week. Consider: what does it mean to be “made alive” in Christ, and how does understanding where we came from help us appreciate where we are now?

“

*The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is
at work in you today.*

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK TWO

WEEK THREE

But God

Ephesians 2:1-10

But God: From Death to Life

DAY 1

Dead Without Him

READING · EPHESIANS 2:1–3

Paul doesn't say we were sick or struggling—he says we were dead. Dead things cannot fix themselves. A corpse cannot walk to the doctor. This is the sobering reality of life without Christ: spiritually lifeless, controlled by the world's standards, the devil's influence, and our own flesh. We may have felt alive, enjoying the drift down the river, but we were heading toward destruction. Recognizing our true condition is the first step toward transformation. You cannot appreciate salvation until you understand what you've been saved from. Today, reflect honestly on areas where you've been drifting, believing you're alive but spiritually dormant. Acknowledge your need for rescue—not improvement, but resurrection.

REFLECTION

What areas of your life have you been trying to “fix” rather than surrender to God?

DAY 2

The Turning Point

READING · EPHESIANS 2:4–5

“But God.” These two words change everything. They are the turning point in every testimony, the hinge between death and life. God didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up. He didn't require us to earn His attention. While we were dead—completely helpless—He loved us. His mercy means we don't get what we deserve. His grace means we get what we could never earn. Like Lazarus in the tomb, we contributed nothing to our resurrection. Jesus called, and life entered where death was reigning. Your salvation story isn't about your effort; it's about God's intervention. Today, thank God for pursuing you when you couldn't pursue Him, for loving you before you loved Him.

REFLECTION

When was your “but God” moment? How has He intervened in your life?

DAY 3

Made Alive for Purpose

READING · EPHESIANS 2:6–7

God didn't just save you from something; He saved you for something. You've been raised up and seated with Christ in heavenly places. This isn't just positional theology—it's your new reality. God wants to display His immeasurable riches and kindness through your life in the ages to come. You are not an accident. You were known before the foundation of the world and created as His masterpiece—His poema, His beautiful poem. Your life is meant to reflect His glory. The question isn't whether you have purpose, but whether you're walking in it. God has prepared good works specifically for you. Today, ask God to reveal the purpose He's prepared for your life and take one step toward it.

REFLECTION

What good works has God uniquely prepared you to do?

DAY 4

Grace, Not Works

READING · EPHESIANS 2:8–9

You cannot earn salvation. The best you could bring before God on your own is filthy rags. This truth simultaneously humbles and liberates us. Salvation is by grace through faith—a gift, not a reward. You don't work your way to God; you trust your way to Him. This means you can stop performing, stop pretending, stop exhausting yourself trying to be good enough. You never will be, and that's exactly why Jesus came. However, understanding grace doesn't lead to laziness—it leads to gratitude. When you truly grasp that you've been rescued from death, your response isn't “now I can do whatever I want,” but “how can I honor the One who saved me?” True faith always produces transformation.

REFLECTION

Are you trying to earn God's love, or are you living from His love?

DAY 5

Living Fruit

READING · JAMES 2:14–17; GALATIANS 5:22–23

A fruit tree doesn't produce fruit to become alive; it produces fruit because it is alive. Good works don't save you, but they reveal that you've been saved. They're the evidence of genuine transformation. If someone struggling with the same addiction you once had looked at your life, would they see freedom? Would they want to come to you for prayer? Your life is producing fruit—the question is, what kind? The fruit of the Spirit should be increasingly evident: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This isn't about perfection; it's about direction. Are you moving toward Christ or drifting with the world? Stop trying to improve a life that needs to be surrendered. Wave the white flag and let God produce His fruit through you.

REFLECTION

What fruit is your life currently producing? What does it reveal about your spiritual condition?

But God

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: Share a “but God” moment from your life—a time when God intervened in a situation where you felt helpless or hopeless.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's message continues the series in Ephesians 2:1–10 with three movements: we were dead in our sins and trespasses; but God made us alive through His mercy, love, and grace; and we are now alive for a purpose, created for good works. Salvation isn't earned through our efforts—it's a gift of God's grace—and good works are the fruit of a transformed life, not the means to earn it.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 2:4–10

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... For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works... For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1 · We Were Dead (vv. 1–3)

- 1 Understanding our condition: Paul says we were “dead” in our sins, not just “sick.” What’s the difference, and why does it matter for how we understand salvation?
- 2 The three influencers: the sermon identified three things that controlled us before Christ—the world, the devil, and the flesh. Which of these do you find most challenging to resist in daily life? Why?
- 3 The drift: Pastor Jay used the illustration of tubing down a river—drifting comfortably until you realize there’s a waterfall ahead. How does this picture resonate with your experience or observations of life without Christ?
- 4 Personal reflection: before knowing Christ (or in areas where you’re still struggling), how did you try to “fix yourself”? What did that look like?

Section 2 · But God Made Us Alive (vv. 4–9)

- 1 Mercy, love, and grace: mercy means not getting what we deserve, love is given before we loved Him, and grace is receiving what we cannot earn. Which of these three do you most need to be reminded of right now?
- 2 The Lazarus principle: like Lazarus in the tomb, we contributed nothing to our spiritual resurrection. How does this challenge the way we sometimes think about salvation and spiritual growth?
- 3 Backwards thinking: many people believe they need to “get their life together” before coming to God. Have you ever felt this way? How does Ephesians 2:4–5 address this misconception?

- 4 Dylan's testimony: Dylan shared his powerful story of addiction and freedom. What stood out to you most? How does his story illustrate the “but God” principle?

Section 3 · We Are Alive for a Purpose (v. 10)

- 1 Created for good works: we're saved BY grace, THROUGH faith, and FOR good works. How does understanding this sequence change your perspective on Christian living?
- 2 Fruit, not effort: “A fruit tree doesn't produce fruit to become alive; it produces fruit because it is alive.” How does this shift your thinking about spiritual disciplines and serving God?
- 3 Masterpiece identity: you are God's “poema” (masterpiece/poem). How does seeing yourself as God's workmanship—created with purpose—impact your daily choices and self-perception?
- 4 Fruit inspection: if a “fruit inspector” examined your life, what would they find? What fruit is your life currently producing that shows you're alive in Christ?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **You were spiritually dead** — and unable to save yourself; only God could rescue you.
- ✓ **Salvation is entirely God's work** — through His mercy, love, and grace, not earned by your efforts.
- ✓ **Good works don't save you** — but they reveal that you have been saved.
- ✓ **You are God's masterpiece** — created with purpose and prepared for specific good works.
- ✓ **Stop trying to improve a life that needs to be surrendered.**

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1 Surrender Something You've Been Trying to Fix

Identify one area where you've been trying to “work harder” or “fix yourself” rather than surrendering to God. Spend time in prayer this week specifically giving that area to Him.

Option 2 Share Your “But God” Story

Like Dylan did in the service, share your testimony with someone this week—a friend, family member, coworker, or even a stranger. Practice articulating your “but God” moment.

Option 3 Identify Your Good Works

Reflect on Ephesians 2:10 and ask God to reveal the good works He has prepared for you. Write down 2–3 specific ways you sense Him calling you to serve, then take one practical step.

Option 4 Fruit Inventory

Honestly assess the fruit your life is producing—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). Choose one to intentionally cultivate this week.

Option 5 Memorize the Key Verse

Commit Ephesians 2:8–9 to memory: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for His mercy, love, and grace that saved you when you were dead in sin.
- Ask God to help each person identify and surrender areas they've been trying to fix in their own strength.

- Pray for clarity about the specific good works God has prepared for each group member.
- Lift up anyone struggling with feeling “not good enough” or trying to earn God's love.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to produce genuine fruit in each person's life as evidence of their salvation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Continue reading through Ephesians in preparation for next week's message. Pay special attention to how Paul describes our identity and unity in Christ.

“

The gospel's not about turning over a new leaf. It's about receiving a new life.

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK THREE

WEEK FOUR

One Big Family

Ephesians 2:11-22

Tearing Down Walls

DAY 1

From Far to Near

READING · EPHESIANS 2:11–13

You were once far from God—separated, alienated, without hope. But God didn't wait for you to find your way home. Through Christ's blood, He closed the gap. The gospel is God's relentless pursuit of you. Like the father running to meet his prodigal son, God sprints toward you with open arms. No matter how far you've wandered or how broken you feel, you are not too distant for His grace. Jesus removed the distance between you and the Father. Today, receive this truth: God has already come near to you. Stop dragging your feet in shame and lift your head—your Father is running toward you with restoration, not condemnation.

REFLECTION

Where in your life are you still living as if you're far from God, when He has already brought you near? What would it look like to stop dragging your feet in shame and let your Father reach you today?

DAY 2

Jesus Is Our Peace

READING · EPHESIANS 2:14–16

Jesus doesn't merely bring peace—He IS our peace. He destroyed the walls of hostility that separated us from God and from one another. At the cross, His blood flowed vertically, reconciling us to God, and horizontally, reconciling us to each other. The same grace that saved you also calls you to extend forgiveness to others. This doesn't mean forgetting or removing boundaries, but it means releasing bitterness. What walls have you built between yourself and others? Pride? Hurt? Political differences? Generational grudges? Jesus demolished these barriers. The church should be the most unified place on earth because our identity in Christ is

greater than our differences. Let His peace reign in your relationships today.

REFLECTION

What wall of hostility—pride, hurt, bitterness, a difference—has Jesus already torn down that you're still defending? Who is one person His peace is calling you to forgive?

DAY 3

Citizens of a New Kingdom

READING · EPHESIANS 2:19; PHILIPPIANS 3:20

You are no longer a stranger or alien—you are a citizen of God's kingdom. Citizenship means belonging, protection, and allegiance. Your primary identity isn't tied to nationality, political party, or family heritage; it's rooted in the kingdom of heaven. This new citizenship demands a new loyalty. When earthly divisions threaten to separate you from fellow believers, remember: you serve the same King. You share the same Savior. You belong to the same eternal family. What allegiances compete for your heart? What temporary identities have you elevated above your citizenship in Christ? Today, declare your true allegiance. Live as a citizen whose home is heaven, whose King is Jesus, and whose family transcends all earthly boundaries.

REFLECTION

What earthly identity or allegiance has been competing with your citizenship in Christ? How would this week look different if you lived first as a citizen of heaven?

DAY 4

Built Together as God's Temple

READING · EPHESIANS 2:20–22; 1 PETER 2:4–5

You are a living stone being built into God's temple. A pile of bricks has value, but no purpose until placed in the structure. Isolated, you cannot fulfill your design. God created you for community, for connection, for contributing to something greater than yourself. You weren't saved merely for individual salvation—you were saved

into a family, to serve, to belong, and to grow alongside other believers. What walls of isolation have you built? Fear? Past hurt? Pride? Self-sufficiency? God is calling you to step into your purpose within His house. The church needs you in position, not on the sidelines. Stop living in isolation. Find your place in God's temple and watch Him use you.

REFLECTION

What wall of isolation have you built—fear, past hurt, self-sufficiency? Where is God inviting you to step off the sidelines and into your place in His house?

DAY 5

Stepping Over the Rubble

READING · ISAIAH 43:18–19; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Jesus has torn down the walls, but you must choose to step over the rubble. Acknowledging that a wall is gone is different from walking into freedom. What barriers in your life have been demolished by Christ's finished work, yet you still stand at the edge, afraid to cross? Hurt? Bitterness? Unforgiveness? Fear? The foundation stones of old walls may still be visible, but they no longer have power over you. God is doing a new thing. The enemy didn't build most of your walls—you did. Today, take responsibility and take action. Step over the debris of your past. Walk into the freedom, restoration, and purpose Christ purchased for you. Your new life awaits on the other side.

REFLECTION

What barrier has Christ already demolished that you're still standing behind, afraid to cross? What is one concrete step you can take today to walk into the freedom He purchased?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for coming near when I was far off and making me part of Your family. Jesus, You are my peace. Tear down the walls I've built, give me courage to step into freedom and forgiveness, and set me in my place among Your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One Big Family

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: What's your favorite TV show about family from any era? What made that show memorable to you?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's message moves through Ephesians 2:11–22 in three movements: Jesus removes the distance, closing the gap between us and God; Jesus reconciles the division, becoming our peace and destroying the walls between people; and Jesus builds a new family, making us citizens, household members, and living stones in God's temple. We weren't just saved from something—we were saved into something: one big family.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 2:14, 19

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

- 1 The message noted that not everyone has positive feelings about the word “family.” How does understanding God as Father differ from our earthly family experiences?
- 2 What does it mean that “the gospel is God's pursuit of us” rather than us pursuing God? How does this change your perspective on your relationship with Him?

- 3 Paul wrote to a church divided between Jews and Gentiles. What are some modern-day “walls” that divide believers today?

Personal Reflection

- 1 Pastor Jay said, “Jesus didn't wait for us to come near to Him. Jesus came near to us.” When have you experienced God pursuing you when you were far from Him?
- 2 Consider this: “The same blood that reconciles us to God reconciles us to one another.” What walls do you need Jesus to tear down in your relationships?
- 3 What's the difference between forgetting what someone did and forgiving them? How can you have healthy boundaries while still extending forgiveness?

Going Deeper

- 1 The message emphasized that “church should be the most unified place on earth.” Why do you think churches often struggle with division? What prevents us from living as “one big family”?
- 2 Pastor Jay said, “You weren't saved to live in isolation... you were saved to serve, to belong, and to grow alongside other believers.” How does this challenge our individualistic view of salvation?
- 3 Consider the imagery of bricks sitting in a pile versus being built into a house. What does it look like for you to move from just “being saved” to being actively built into God's temple?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Jesus removes the distance** — His blood closes the gap between us and God.

- ✓ **Unity isn't sameness** — we can disagree and still be one in Christ.
- ✓ **Forgiveness is for you** — not just for the other person.
- ✓ **Identity over difference** — who we are in Christ is greater than what divides us.
- ✓ **Saved into something** — we're not just saved FROM sin, but INTO God's family.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Identify and step over. Name one wall in your life (hurt, pride, politics, race, bitterness, offense, fear), acknowledge that Jesus has already torn it down through His sacrifice, and step over the rubble by taking one concrete action toward reconciliation or freedom. Some ways to start:

Option 1 Forgive Someone

Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray for them by name this week.

Option 2 Reach Back Out

Is there a relationship you've avoided? Reach out with a text or a call.

Option 3 Check Your Heart

Is there a group of believers you've judged? Ask God to change your heart toward them.

Option 4 Get Connected

Is there a wall of pride keeping you isolated? Join a serving team or a small group.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- What specific wall did God reveal to you during this discussion?
- What is one step you will take this week to move toward reconciliation or unity?
- Who can you share this with to help keep you accountable?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Eyes to see the walls we've built that Jesus has already torn down.
- Courage to step over the rubble into freedom and reconciliation.
- Unity in the body of Christ across all dividing lines.
- Specific relationships that need healing.
- Hearts willing to forgive as we've been forgiven.

Jesus, thank You for tearing down the wall between us and God. Help us to tear down the walls between us and others. Show us where we've built barriers, and give us courage to step into the freedom and family You've created for us. Amen.

LEADER NOTES

- Be sensitive to those who may have difficult family backgrounds.
- Create a safe space for honest sharing about walls and divisions.
- Emphasize grace—we're all works in progress.
- Don't force anyone to share specifics about their walls, but encourage personal reflection.
- Keep the focus on Jesus as the wall-breaker, not on our own efforts to fix relationships.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 3:1–13 in preparation for next week. Reflect on what it means to be part of God's “mystery” revealed, and consider: how has God used your story to display His glory?



*Jesus didn't wait for us to come near to Him. He
came near to us.*

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK FOUR

WEEK FIVE

Made for More

Ephesians 3:1-21

Living in God's Greater Purpose

DAY 1

You Are Part of a Bigger Purpose

READING · EPHESIANS 3:1–13

Paul wrote from prison, yet he saw beyond his circumstances to God's greater plan. He understood that his suffering served a purpose larger than personal comfort. Like a single puzzle piece that seems insignificant alone, you are essential to God's complete picture. Your life is not about accumulating comfort or avoiding difficulty—it's about fulfilling the mission God designed specifically for you. When was the last time you sacrificed something for God's purpose? Today, ask yourself: am I living for my plans or God's purpose? The mission matters more than your preference. Your calling may cost you something, but what is a sacrifice if it costs you nothing?

REFLECTION

Am I living for my own plans or God's purpose? What comfort might God be asking you to lay down so you can step into the calling He designed for you?

DAY 2

The Dimensions of God's Love

READING · EPHESIANS 3:14–19

Paul prays that believers would comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love. This love extends endlessly from east to west, reaches everyone, lasts forever, lifts us from our sins, and meets us at our lowest point. God's love for you is not based on what you do but on who He is. Like a child growing in understanding of their father's love over time, the longer you walk with God, the more you grasp how deeply He loves you. You cannot live confidently in God's purpose if you constantly question His love for you. Your biggest insecurity cannot withstand the truth of His

unfailing love. Today, rest in this: you are His masterpiece, loved beyond measure.

REFLECTION

Which dimension of God's love—its breadth, length, height, or depth—is hardest for you to believe today? How would resting in that love change the way you see yourself?

DAY 3

Security Produces Boldness

READING · EPHESIANS 3:12; 2 TIMOTHY 1:7–12

Paul declares that in Christ we have boldness, access, and confidence through faith. The more secure you are in God's love, the bolder you become in His calling. Fear, doubt, and past failures lose their power when you truly know whose you are. God's love is greater than your fears, greater than your doubts, greater than your failures. Like Paul, who transformed from a stuttering, fearful person into a bold proclaimer of truth, God can take your weakness and make it your strength. The question is not whether you are capable—it's whether you believe God is. Today, identify one area where insecurity has held you back, and declare God's love over it. Let His perfect love cast out fear.

REFLECTION

Where has insecurity been holding you back from what God is calling you to do? What would change if you truly believed His love is greater than your fear?

DAY 4

God Can Do More Than You Imagine

READING · EPHESIANS 3:20–21; ROMANS 8:31–39

God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. Your biggest prayer is not beyond His ability. Your greatest dream is too small for His vision. Many believers pray small prayers because they have a small view of God. What if you prayed bold prayers—prayers that can only be

answered by God's intervention? God specializes in exceeding expectations. He provides more than we request, sees further than we imagine, and works beyond our limitations. Your weakness is not a barrier; it's a launching pad for His power. Today, pray one bold prayer that requires God to show up. Trust that His ability exceeds your requests.

REFLECTION

What “small prayer” have you been praying that needs to become a bold one? What are you trusting God to do that only He can accomplish?

DAY 5

Don't Settle for Less

READING · PHILIPPIANS 3:12–14; HEBREWS 12:1–3

Paul's final message is clear: don't settle. Don't settle for comfort over calling. Don't settle for information without transformation. Don't settle for survival when you were made for significance. Too many believers live below what God intended because they focus on getting by rather than living in the fullness of God. You were not created merely to survive—you were created to thrive in purpose, rest in love, and operate in power. The fullness of God is available to you today. Will you pursue it? Will you sacrifice for it? Will you step out of your comfort zone to walk in your calling? Remember: you have purpose, you are loved, and God can do more through you than you can imagine. Today, choose not to settle. Step into the more God has for you.

REFLECTION

Where have you been settling for “getting by” instead of the fullness God has for you? What is one step you can take today to stop settling and pursue the more He's offering?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that I am part of a purpose far bigger than myself, and loved with a love beyond measure. Root me in that love and make me bold in my calling. Do more in me and through me than I could ask or imagine, and keep me from settling for less than the fullness You have for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Made for More

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His purpose, to help you understand His deep love, and to empower you to live beyond your limitations.

Ice Breaker: Share one area of your life where you feel like you're "just surviving" rather than thriving. What would "more" look like in that area?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's message explores Ephesians 3 and three truths: you are part of a bigger purpose—it's not about you; you're part of God's grand plan; you are loved more than you know—God's love has dimensions beyond our comprehension; and you can do more through God than you can imagine—God specializes in exceeding expectations.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 3:20–21

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1 · You Are Part of a Bigger Purpose

- 1 The missing puzzle piece: how does the “puzzle piece” illustration change your perspective on your significance in God's plan? When have you felt insignificant, and how might God see that differently?
- 2 Comfort vs. calling: Pastor Jay said we often “select comfort over calling.” Where do you see this tension in your own life, and what would it look like to sacrifice comfort for God's calling in one specific area this week?
- 3 Paul's prison perspective: Paul wrote from prison, focused on purpose rather than circumstances. What “prison moments” are you currently experiencing, and how can you shift from asking “Why me?” to “What's the purpose?”
- 4 The cost of sacrifice: King David said, “I will not offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24). When was the last time you made a real sacrifice for God's mission? What might He be asking you to surrender that you've been holding onto?

Part 2 · You Are Loved More Than You Know

- 1 Dimensions of love: Paul prays we would grasp the breadth, length, height, and depth of God's love—His love reaches everyone, never ends, lifts us from sin, and reaches our lowest point. Which dimension do you struggle to believe most?
- 2 Growing in understanding: the message compared understanding God's love to children growing in their understanding of a parent's love. How has your understanding of God's love grown over time? What experiences deepened it?

- 3 Security and boldness: “You cannot live confidently in God's purpose if you constantly question God's love for you.” Do you agree? How does insecurity about God's love affect your willingness to step out in faith?
- 4 Love vs. performance: do you tend to view God's love as earned by performance or given because of who He is? What would change in your life if you truly believed His love isn't dictated by what you do?

Part 3 · You Can Do More Through God Than You Imagine

- 1 Small prayers, small God: “Many believers pray small prayers because they have a small view of God.” Do you agree? What's the boldest prayer you've ever prayed, and what held you back from praying even bolder?
- 2 Beyond your imagination: share a time when God did something that exceeded what you asked or imagined. What current situation needs you to believe that “God can do more than you can imagine”?
- 3 Weakness as a launching pad: Pastor Jay shared how his childhood stuttering became a platform for preaching. What weakness might God want to use as your “launching pad,” and what would it look like to surrender it to Him this week?
- 4 The power within: “The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.” How does this change your perspective on your current challenges? Where do you need to tap into God's power rather than your own strength?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **You are part of a bigger story** — created for God's purpose, not just your comfort.
- ✓ **You are deeply, unconditionally loved** — not based on your performance, but on His character.

- ✓ **God's ability exceeds your limitations** — your biggest prayer isn't beyond Him; your weakness isn't a barrier.
- ✓ **Security fuels boldness** — you can't live confidently in God's purpose while questioning His love.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose at least one to put into practice this week:

Option 1 For Purpose

Take one concrete step toward God's calling in an area where you've chosen comfort. Ask Him daily to reveal His purpose for this season, and encourage someone who feels insignificant that they matter to God's plan.

Option 2 For Love

Memorize Ephesians 3:17-19 and place it where you'll see it daily. Journal how God has shown His love across your life, looking for patterns of faithfulness, and spend ten minutes a day in silence simply receiving His love.

Option 3 For Power

Write down three bold prayers that require God's power, not your own strength, and pray them daily. Share a weakness with a trusted friend and ask them to pray God uses it for His glory, then act in faith on something He's been calling you to do.

Option 4 Bold Prayer Challenge (as a group)

Have each person share one area where they need God to do more than they can ask or imagine, and one weakness they want Him to transform. Then pray boldly and specifically for one another, believing God can exceed your expectations.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- Purpose: Am I living for my plans or God's purpose? What would change if I fully embraced God's purpose for my life?
- Love: In what area do I most struggle to believe God loves me? What lie am I believing about myself that contradicts God's love?
- Power: What “small prayer” have I been praying that needs to become a “bold prayer”? What am I limiting God to do in my life?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, according to the riches of Your glory, strengthen us with power through Your Spirit in our inner being. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith. Root and ground us in love, and give us strength to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love that surpasses knowledge. Fill us with Your fullness. Now to You who are able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to You be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

LEADER NOTES

- Be vulnerable first—share your own struggles with purpose, doubts about God's love, or small prayers.
- Create safety—some may be wrestling with deep insecurities, so keep the group a judgment-free zone.
- Celebrate testimonies—if someone shares how God exceeded their expectations, pause to give Him glory.
- Don't rush—it's better to go deep on fewer questions than to cover them all superficially.
- End on hope—make sure everyone leaves believing God has more for them.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 4 in preparation for next week. Follow through on your chosen practical application, and share one thing God revealed to you from this study with someone outside your small group.



Don't settle for survival when you were made for significance.

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK FIVE

WEEK SIX

Walking Worthy

Ephesians 4:1-16

Walking Worthy of Your Calling

DAY 1

Remember Who You Were

READING · EPHESIANS 2:1–13

Before we can walk worthy of our calling, we must remember where we came from. Paul commands us to remember that we were once dead in our trespasses, separated from Christ, without hope. But God, being rich in mercy, made us alive together with Christ. This is not a call to shame but to gratitude. When we remember the depth of the pit from which we were rescued, we gain perspective on the magnitude of God's grace. Our transformation wasn't earned—it was given. Today, pause and reflect: who were you before Christ? How has He brought you near by His blood? Let this remembrance fuel your worship and shape your walk. Your past isn't your prison; it's your testimony of God's transforming power.

REFLECTION

Who were you before Christ, and how has He brought you near? How can remembering the pit you were rescued from fuel gratitude and shape the way you walk today?

DAY 2

Unity Begins with Humility

READING · EPHESIANS 4:1–6; PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

Walking worthy of our calling begins with how we treat one another. Paul lists four attitudes that protect unity: humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. Notice humility comes first—it's the foundation. Pride destroys churches, marriages, and friendships, but humility says, "It's not about me; it's about Jesus." Christ demonstrated ultimate humility by descending from heaven to die on a cross. If the Son of God could humble Himself, who are we to demand our own way? Unity isn't the absence of differences; it's choosing to love despite them. Today, examine your heart: are you protecting unity or damaging it? Is there someone you need to forgive, someone you need to

reconcile with? Remember, unity is God-created but believer-preserved.

REFLECTION

Where is pride quietly threatening unity in your relationships? Is there someone you need to forgive or take a step toward reconciling with this week?

DAY 3

Gifted to Serve, Not to Sit

READING · EPHESIANS 4:7–12; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27

God didn't save you just to occupy a seat—He saved you to serve in His body. Every believer has been given grace and gifted by Christ for ministry. Your gifts aren't toys to play with; they're tools to build with. The body of Christ functions best when every member contributes. Think about your physical body: when one part stops working, the entire body compensates and suffers. The same is true spiritually. When you don't serve, the church feels it. You may not be a pastor or leader with a microphone, but you can encourage, pray, give, invite, or love people well. Today, ask yourself: am I serving or spectating? What gifts has God given me? How can I use them to build up the body of Christ? Don't wait for the perfect opportunity—find your place and step into it.

REFLECTION

Am I serving or spectating? What gift has God given you, and where could you step in to build up the body this week?

DAY 4

Growing Up in Christ

READING · EPHESIANS 4:13–16; HEBREWS 5:11–14

Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how long you've been saved but by how much you look like Jesus. Paul warns against remaining spiritually immature—like children tossed back and forth by every wind of teaching. Mature believers are anchored in truth, rooted in love, and growing in Christlikeness. They think, love, forgive, serve, and respond like Jesus. The goal isn't just knowing more Bible

verses or attending more services; it's transformation. God is still working on you, shaping you, growing you into the image of His Son. Today, honestly assess your spiritual growth: are you more patient than last year? Do you love people more deeply? Are you quicker to forgive? If not, it's time to grow up. Healthy things grow, and growing believers help others grow too.

REFLECTION

Are you more patient, loving, and quick to forgive than you were a year ago? What is one area where God is inviting you to grow up into Christ?

DAY 5

Your Walk Is Your Response

READING · EPHESIANS 4:1–3; JAMES 2:14–26

Your walk as a Christian is your response to God's work in your life. You don't walk worthy to get saved; you walk worthy because you've been saved. You don't obey to earn God's favor; you obey because you've already received it in Christ. Everything Paul commands in chapters 4–6 is built on the foundation of chapters 1–3—who you are in Christ and what He has done for you. Your conduct should match your calling. The world is watching how Christians walk. Does your life bring glory to God or confusion to the gospel? Today, let this question settle in your heart: if all that God has done for me is true, does my walk reflect my calling? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas where your walk doesn't match your identity in Christ. Then respond—not in guilt, but in grateful obedience to the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

REFLECTION

If all God has done for you is true, does your walk reflect your calling? Where is the Holy Spirit inviting your conduct to catch up with your identity in Christ?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the grace that made me alive when I was dead in sin. Help me walk worthy of the calling You've given me—in humility and unity with others, in faithful service with the gifts You've entrusted to me, and in growing maturity that looks more like Jesus. Let my walk be my grateful response to Your work. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Walking Worthy

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help each person honestly examine their walk with Christ.

Ice Breaker: Share one area of your life where you've seen God transform you since becoming a Christian. How is your “walk” different than it used to be?

SERMON OVERVIEW

Ephesians pivots here. Chapters 1-3 tell us who we are in Christ and what He's done for us; chapters 4-6 tell us how to live because of it. Our walk is simply our response to God's work in us. To “walk worthy” is to let our conduct match our calling—living out the transformation Christ has made, not to earn salvation but in response to it. Paul gives three ways to do it: walk in unity (vv. 1-6), walk in ministry (vv. 7-12), and walk in maturity (vv. 13-16).

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 4:1-3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1 · Understanding the Foundation

- 1 Why do you think Paul spent three chapters on doctrine before giving practical instructions? How does understanding who we are in Christ affect how we live?
- 2 Read Ephesians 4:1. What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling”? Why does Paul use the word “worthy”—the idea of equal weight, balancing the scales?
- 3 “Your walk is simply your response to His work.” How does this change your perspective on Christian living compared to trying to earn God's favor?

Part 2 · Walking in Unity (vv. 1–6)

- 1 Review the four attitudes that protect unity—humility (Christ first, others second, self last), gentleness (strength under control), patience (endurance when things don't go our way), and bearing with one another in love. Which of these four is most challenging for you personally? Why?
- 2 Paul says to “maintain” unity, not create it. What does this tell us about unity in the church? How is this different from uniformity?
- 3 Honest moment: is there someone you need to reconcile with? What step can you take this week toward unity with that person?
- 4 How does pride destroy unity in relationships, churches, and families? Share an example (without naming names) of how humility brought healing to a broken relationship.

Part 3 · Walking in Ministry (vv. 7–12)

- 1 Read Ephesians 4:11–12. According to these verses, whose job is it to do “the work of ministry”? How does this challenge the common view that ministry is just the pastor's job?
- 2 “Every believer is gifted in some way, and every believer is called to ministry.” Do you believe you have been gifted by God? If so, how? If you're unsure, what steps can you take to discover your gifts?
- 3 What's the difference between natural abilities and spiritual gifts? How can both be used to serve God and others?
- 4 Are you currently serving or spectating? What's one practical way you could use your gifts to serve the body of Christ this month?
- 5 According to verse 12, gifts are given to equip the saints, to do the work of ministry, and to build up the body of Christ. How does understanding these three purposes change how you view serving?

Part 4 · Walking in Maturity (vv. 13–16)

- 1 What is the goal of spiritual maturity according to verse 13? (Hint: it's not just knowing more Bible verses or attending more services.)
- 2 Read verse 14. What are the dangers of remaining spiritually immature? How have you seen people “tossed to and fro” by every new teaching or trend?
- 3 The message asked, “Are we being disciplined more by social media or by Scripture?” How would you honestly answer that for yourself? What needs to change?
- 4 “Truth without love can become harsh. Love without truth becomes compromise.” Why is it important to hold both together? Give an example of what this looks like practically.

5

Self-assessment: Are you more patient than a year ago? Do you know more of God's Word? Do you love people more? Are you quicker to forgive? Do you look more like Jesus today than yesterday? Choose one and share your honest answer with the group.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Your walk is your response** — you don't obey to be saved; you obey because you already are.
- ✓ **Walk in unity** — protected by humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love.
- ✓ **Walk in ministry** — every believer is gifted and called to serve, not just to sit.
- ✓ **Walk in maturity** — grow up into Christ, anchored in truth and rooted in love.
- ✓ **God didn't save you to sit** — He saved you to serve.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose ONE area to focus on this week:

Option 1 Unity

Reach out to someone you need to reconcile with, or someone you've had tension with, and take one step toward healing that relationship.

Option 2 Ministry

Identify one spiritual gift you have (or think you might have) and find one way to use it to serve someone this week.

Option 3 Maturity

Pick one specific way you want to become more like Jesus and make a practical plan to grow—for example, if it's patience, pause and pray before responding when frustrated.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Share with the group which area you're choosing to focus on.
- Exchange contact information with one other person to check in mid-week.
- Be prepared to share next week how God worked through your obedience.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for the calling He has placed on each person's life.
- Ask for His help to walk in unity with other believers.
- Pray for courage to step into ministry and use spiritual gifts.
- Ask for His strength to grow in maturity and Christlikeness.
- Commit to being doers of the Word, not just hearers.

LEADER NOTES

- Some may be wrestling with broken relationships—keep the group a safe, judgment-free space.
- Be willing to share your own walk honestly; vulnerability invites vulnerability.
- Don't rush—it's better to go deep on fewer questions than to cover them all superficially.
- Move people toward one concrete step, not just good discussion.
- End on grace—walking worthy is a response to what Christ has done, never a way to earn it.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Read the rest of Ephesians 4 (vv. 17-32) for more of how Paul describes our walk.
- Study 1 Corinthians 12-14 for more on spiritual gifts.
- Memorize Ephesians 4:1-3 this week.

“

If someone observed your life this week, would they be able to tell you've been called by God?

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK SIX

WEEK SEVEN

How to Walk

Ephesians 4:17-5:22

Learning to Walk

DAY 1

Renewed Minds, Transformed Lives

READING · ROMANS 12:1–2; EPHESIANS 4:17–24

Before sin changes our behavior, it changes what we're willing to believe. The Ephesians had burned their magic books worth millions—they knew transformation was costly. Paul doesn't begin with external behaviors but with the mind. Wrong thinking darkens understanding, darkened understanding hardens the heart, and a hardened heart eventually changes the walk. You cannot feed your mind on everything the world offers and expect to walk in Jesus' ways. Transformation happens through renewing your mind. What voices are programming your internal GPS? Is God's Word renewing you, or are your feeds, friends, and entertainment shaping you? Today, identify one area where worldly thinking has taken root. Replace it with Scripture. Memorize one verse that speaks truth to that lie. Renewal begins in your thought life.

REFLECTION

What voices are programming your thinking right now—Scripture, or your feeds, friends, and entertainment? What is one lie you can replace with God's truth this week?

DAY 2

Changing Your Clothes

READING · EPHESIANS 4:25–32; COLOSSIANS 3:8–14

Grace brings us into the family and teaches us what no longer belongs. When you come home dirty from work, your spouse doesn't say you're no longer family—just that certain things can't come inside. Similarly, God doesn't reject you, but His love teaches you what must be shed. Paul gives specific contrasts: take off falsehood, put on truth; take off sinful anger, put on quick reconciliation; take off rotten words, put on grace-giving speech. You don't change clothes to become His child—you change because you already are. The gospel isn't “get clean and come.” It's “Jesus

has made you new; now take off what no longer belongs.” What old garment is the Holy Spirit asking you to remove today? Bitterness? Gossip? Unforgiveness? Name it specifically. Then ask: what characteristic of Christ should replace it? Make one practical change today that reflects your new identity.

REFLECTION

What old garment is the Holy Spirit asking you to take off—bitterness, gossip, unforgiveness? What characteristic of Christ will you put on in its place?

DAY 3

Walking in Love

READING · EPHESIANS 5:1–7; 1 JOHN 4:7–12

“Be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love.” Paul doesn’t leave love undefined—it looks like Jesus giving Himself up for us. Biblical love is not simply approving everything someone wants. It’s holy, truthful, sacrificial, and shaped like the cross. We live in a culture that calls many things love that are actually counterfeits. Paul immediately names sexual immorality, impurity, and greed—things that often present themselves as love or freedom today. But he calls them what they are: incompatible with God’s holy people. You imitate the Father because you are His child. Love is not a vague feeling but a concrete pattern modeled by Christ. Where are you tempted to call something “love” that God calls compromise? Who in your life needs you to love them with truth and sacrifice rather than mere approval? Take one step today toward Christlike love in a specific relationship.

REFLECTION

Where are you tempted to call something “love” that God calls compromise? Who needs you to love them with truth and sacrifice rather than mere approval?

Walking in Light

READING · EPHESIANS 5:8–14; 1 JOHN 1:5–10

“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Not once in darkness—you were darkness. Now you are light. This is identity, not just location. Light is supposed to be seen, not because we’re self-righteous, but because the life of Jesus should make us different enough that darkness cannot explain us. The church cannot be light to the world while copying the darkness of the world. As a young hockey player, Pastor Josh was nicknamed “Sister Joshua” because his teammates saw something different. There was a cost—but light was noticed. Paul never told the Ephesian church to blend in. He told them to shine. Your life should expose darkness simply by being what it is—filled with goodness, righteousness, and truth. Where have you been hiding your light to fit in? What relationship or environment is calling you to compromise? Be light today. Let one person see Jesus in you through an act of genuine goodness.

REFLECTION

Where have you been dimming your light to fit in? What is one way you can let someone see Jesus in you today through genuine goodness?

Walking in Wisdom

READING · EPHESIANS 5:15–20; JAMES 1:5–8

“Be very careful how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” A wise walk doesn’t happen accidentally. We don’t drift into wisdom. Every small decision matters and needs direction. What is filling you? What controls how you think, react, speak, and decide? Paul says don’t be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit. The issue isn’t merely alcohol—it’s influence and control. Fear, anger, approval, politics, money, success, social media—all these can fill every space inside you. Show me your bank account and calendar, and I’ll tell you what you love. A Spirit-filled life isn’t just a Sunday feeling—it’s daily surrender. What is filling the gaps in your life?

What controls your attention? Today, make one deliberate decision about how you'll spend your time and attention. Surrender one area of influence to the Holy Spirit. Sing, give thanks, and let Christ's presence fill what once held you captive.

REFLECTION

*What is filling the gaps in your life and controlling your attention?
What one area of influence will you surrender to the Holy Spirit this week?*

CLOSING REFLECTION

Walking worthy isn't about perfection—it's about direction. Like a toddler learning to walk, you will fall. But falling doesn't change whose child you are. Grace isn't permission to stay on the floor; it's the Father's hand lifting you back to your feet. Get back up. Draw near. Walk with Him again.

How to Walk

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: Share a funny or memorable story about learning to walk—your own, or watching a child learn. What made it challenging? What made it successful?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Josh continues the series in Ephesians 4:17-5:22, focusing on the practical commands Paul gives believers. The key message: you don't learn to walk to become part of God's family—you learn to walk because you already belong. Paul gives three movements: renew your mind (transformation starts with how we think), change your clothes (put off the old self, put on the new), and walk in love, light, and wisdom (live differently because we are different).

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 4:22-24

...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Up (choose 1–2)

- 1 What stood out to you most from this message? Was there a particular verse, illustration, or point that resonated with you?
- 2 Ephesus was a city filled with idolatry, magic, and spiritual darkness—not a quiet Christian town. How does our modern culture compare? What are the “idols” of our day?

Renew Your Mind (4:17–24)

- 1 Read Ephesians 4:17–19. Paul describes the Gentile lifestyle as “futility of thinking,” “darkened understanding,” and “hardened hearts.” How does wrong thinking lead to wrong living? Can you share an example (without naming names)?
- 2 “Before sin changes our behavior, it usually changes what we are willing to believe.” How have you seen this pattern in your own life or in culture?
- 3 What are you currently “feeding” your mind—social media, entertainment, news, friendships? Is it helping or hindering your spiritual growth?
- 4 Romans 12:2 says we're transformed by the renewing of our minds. What practical steps can you take this week to renew your mind with God's truth?

Change Your Clothes (4:25–32)

- 1 Review the put off / put on contrasts: falsehood → truth; sinful anger → quick reconciliation; stealing → work and generosity; rotten words → words that give grace; bitterness → the character of Christ. Which is most challenging for you right now? Why?
- 2 “Grace brings us into the family, but grace also teaches us what no longer belongs.” How does this differ from legalism? How is this actually good news?

- 3 Ephesians 4:30 warns us not to “grieve the Holy Spirit.” What does it mean that sin grieves God’s Spirit rather than just breaking a rule?

Walk in Love, Light & Wisdom (5:1–20)

- 1 Read Ephesians 5:1–2. Biblical love is “holy, truthful, sacrificial, and shaped like the cross”—not simply approving everything someone wants. How does this challenge our culture’s definition of love?
- 2 Ephesians 5:8 says we “were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Not just in darkness—we were darkness. How does this identity shift change how we should live?
- 3 Pastor Josh shared being called “Sister Joshua” by his hockey teammates because he lived differently. Have you ever experienced pushback for living out your faith? How did you respond?
- 4 “The church cannot be light to the world while copying the darkness of the world.” Where do you see the church (or yourself) struggling to be distinct from culture?
- 5 Read Ephesians 5:15–17. “Show me your bank account and your calendar and I’ll tell you what you love.” What would your calendar and bank statement reveal about your priorities?
- 6 Ephesians 5:18 contrasts being drunk with wine versus being filled with the Spirit. What things (besides alcohol) tend to “fill” and control us—fear, anger, approval, social media, success? What does being “filled with the Spirit” look like practically?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Learning to walk is simply learning to live like someone who already belongs.

- ✓ **Wrong thinking hardens the heart** — and a hardened heart eventually changes the walk.
- ✓ Transformation happens through the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).
- ✓ **You don't change clothes to become His child** — you change because you already are.
- ✓ **Grace tells the truth** — not to shame you, but so Christ can bring healing.
- ✓ **Light is meant to be seen** — the life of Jesus should make us impossible to explain apart from Him.
- ✓ **We don't drift into wisdom** — a wise walk is chosen, one decision at a time.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose ONE area to focus on this week:

Option 1 Renew Your Mind

Read one chapter of Scripture daily before checking your phone. Take a break from one input (show, podcast, or account) that isn't helping your walk, and memorize one verse from Ephesians 4-5.

Option 2 Change Your Clothes

Identify one “old garment” God is calling you to take off (bitterness, gossip, anger, impurity). Confess it to a trusted brother or sister (James 5:16), and put on the corresponding “new garment.”

Option 3 Walk in Love, Light & Wisdom

Evaluate whether how you're spending your time this week reflects wisdom. Choose one relationship to show Christ-like, sacrificial love, and ask honestly: where am I blending in with darkness instead of shining as light?

Option 4 Group Challenge

Pray for one another through the week in the specific areas each person shared. Text each other mid-week with encouragement or accountability.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for His grace and patience with us.
- Confess areas where we've been walking in darkness instead of light.
- Ask for help renewing our minds and changing our “clothes.”
- Commit to walk in love, light, and wisdom this week.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 5:21–6:24 in preparation for next week—the final week of the series. Journal about one way you saw God help you “walk worthy” this week, and share your story of transformation with someone who needs hope.



Grace isn't permission to stay on the floor. It's the Father's hand lifting you back to your feet.

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK SEVEN

WEEK EIGHT

Stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Armor of God

DAY 1

You Are Not Fighting Alone

READING · EPHESIANS 6:10-11

Paul urges believers to draw their strength not from personal willpower or ability, but from the Lord himself and the power of his might—then to put on the whole armor of God so they can stand against the devil's schemes.

It is easy to enter each day convinced that the weight of your battles rests entirely on your shoulders. You rehearse your problems, measure your strength against them, and often find yourself coming up short. But Paul's instruction is not to try harder. It is to be strong in the Lord. There is a significant difference between those two things. One exhausts you. The other sustains you. God does not call you to manufacture strength you do not have. He calls you to draw on the strength that is already his. Today, before you face anything the day brings, stop and acknowledge that you are not fighting alone. The same God who spoke creation into existence goes before you. Your job is not to summon courage from within. Your job is to stay connected to the One who has already overcome.

REFLECTION

In what areas of your life have you been relying on your own strength rather than the Lord's? What would it look like today to consciously surrender that area to him?

TRY THIS WEEK

Begin your morning by speaking this truth aloud: "I am strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." Write down one situation where you need to stop straining in your own strength and start trusting in his.

Know Your Real Enemy

READING · EPHESIANS 6:12

Paul makes it unmistakably clear that the true battle believers face is not against people made of flesh and blood, but against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers of darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

One of the enemy's most effective strategies is to keep your eyes fixed on people. When a coworker frustrates you, when a relationship fractures, when someone betrays your trust, it feels personal. It feels like that person is your enemy. And as long as you believe that, you will spend your energy fighting the wrong battle entirely. Satan rarely destroys people in a single dramatic moment. He works gradually, through deception, discouragement, division, and distraction. He would rather have you arguing with someone in your life than praying against his schemes. The moment you recognize that people are not your enemy, something shifts. You stop fighting them and start interceding for them. You stop retaliating and start standing firm. Clarity about who your real enemy is changes how you respond to everything.

REFLECTION

Is there a person in your life you have been treating as an enemy? How might viewing them through the lens of Ephesians 6:12 change the way you respond to them?

TRY THIS WEEK

Choose one person who has caused you pain or frustration and pray for them today, specifically and sincerely. Ask God to help you see them not as your enemy but as someone who, like you, is caught in a spiritual battle.

Dressed for the Battle

READING · EPHESIANS 6:13–17

Paul describes each piece of the armor of God in detail: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of

peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A soldier who shows up to battle wearing only part of his armor is not brave. He is vulnerable. The same is true for the believer who leans on salvation alone without cultivating faith, or who carries faith without grounding it in truth. Each piece of the armor serves a purpose, and each piece is provided by God himself. You do not earn this armor. You receive it and then you choose to put it on. The breastplate of righteousness is not your goodness. It is his. The sword you carry is not your words. It is his word. The faith that shields you is not manufactured by you. It is a gift exercised by you. The question is not whether the armor exists. The question is whether you are wearing it every single day.

REFLECTION

Which piece of the armor do you most often neglect? Is it prayer, Scripture, faith, or the assurance of your salvation? Be honest with yourself.

TRY THIS WEEK

Take each piece of armor and spend one minute meditating on what it means for your life today. Consciously “put on” each piece by naming the specific truth, faith, and word of God that applies to what you are facing right now.

DAY 4

The Weapon of God's Word

READING · MATTHEW 4:1–11

Jesus is led into the wilderness where he is tempted by the devil three times. Each time, he responds not with an argument or a display of power, but with a direct quotation from Scripture—saying “it is written” before each response.

Jesus could have silenced the devil with a word of command. He could have called down angels. He could have made the enemy disappear. But he chose to fight with Scripture, and that choice was intentional. He was modeling something for every believer who would come after him. The word of God is the only offensive weapon listed in the armor of God. Everything else is defensive.

The sword of the Spirit cuts through lies, dismantles deception, and drives back darkness. But a sword you do not pick up cannot protect you. A Bible you do not open cannot arm you. Knowing that the word of God is powerful is not the same as wielding it. You have to know it, carry it, and speak it. When the enemy whispers that you are not enough, you answer with what God says about you. That is how you stand firm.

REFLECTION

How familiar are you with Scripture as a weapon rather than simply as a source of comfort? Are there specific lies you are believing that a specific Scripture could counter?

TRY THIS WEEK

Identify one lie the enemy has been speaking over your life. Find a specific Scripture that directly contradicts it. Write it down, memorize it, and speak it out loud every morning this week.

DAY 5

A Praying Soldier Is a Dangerous Soldier

READING · EPHESIANS 6:18

Paul instructs believers to pray at all times in the Spirit, with all kinds of prayer and supplication, staying alert and persevering in prayer for all the saints.

Paul lists every piece of armor and then, having described the full equipment of the soldier, he adds something that is not a piece of armor at all. Prayer is not the seventh item on the list. It is the atmosphere in which all the armor becomes activated. A soldier fully dressed for battle but cut off from communication with headquarters is still in danger. He does not know where to go, what to advance toward, or where the enemy is moving. Prayer is that communication line. It is how the believer stays connected to the One who sees the whole battlefield. Paul himself, in chains, did not pray to be released. He prayed for boldness to keep proclaiming the gospel. That is the posture of a soldier who understands his mission. A prayerless believer is vulnerable. A praying believer is dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. Some of your greatest

victories will not be won in public moments. They will be won in quiet, persistent, Spirit-led prayer.

REFLECTION

Would you describe prayer as something you do occasionally or something woven into who you are? What is one honest change you could make to your prayer life today?

TRY THIS WEEK

Set aside fifteen minutes today for prayer that is not a list of requests for better circumstances. Instead, pray for boldness, for others by name, and for the advancement of the gospel in your community. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide it.

CLOSING THOUGHT

You are not called to retreat. You are not called to fight naked. You are not called to manufacture your own strength. You are called to stand firm on a victory that has already been secured. Jesus defeated sin, death, and the grave. The enemy is real, but he is already defeated. Put on what God has already provided, stay connected through prayer, and stand firm in who God says you are. Do not retreat. Do not compromise. Stand.

Stand Firm

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: When you hear the phrase “stand firm,” what comes to mind? In a difficult situation, is your natural instinct to fight, flee, or stand? Share an example if you're comfortable.

SERMON OVERVIEW

In this closing message of Piece of Work, the focus is on what it means to stand firm in the Lord. Drawing from Ephesians 6, the message challenges believers to recognize the reality of spiritual warfare, put on the whole armor of God, and maintain an active prayer life. Rather than fighting for victory, we are called to stand firm in the victory Christ has already won.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 6:10–11, 13

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil... 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1 • Know Your Enemy

- 1 Have you ever found yourself treating a person—a coworker, family member, someone at church—as though they were your enemy? How did that affect the situation and your own spiritual life?
- 2 The enemy uses deception, distraction, discouragement, and division. Which of these do you find yourself most susceptible to, and why?
- 3 John 8 calls Satan the father of lies. What lies have you heard the enemy whisper—in your own life or others'? How does returning to what God says about us in Ephesians 1-3 counter them?
- 4 How do you find the balance between recognizing spiritual warfare and not attributing everything in life to a spiritual attack?

Section 2 • Wear Your Armor

- 1 “The work was done on Calvary... we simply put on what Christ has already supplied.” How does understanding that the armor is God's provision rather than our own achievement change how you approach spiritual battles?
- 2 Review each piece of armor in Ephesians 6:14-17. Which piece do you feel most confident wearing right now? Which is most often missing or neglected?
- 3 The helmet of salvation protects the mind with the assurance of salvation. Have you ever struggled with doubt about your salvation or God's love? How did you work through it, and what role did Scripture play?

- 4 The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the list, and Jesus modeled using Scripture to resist temptation. How familiar are you with God's word as a weapon? What would it look like to sharpen that weapon in your life?

Section 3 · Pray in the Spirit

- 1 Think of the soldier with advanced weapons but no communication with headquarters. How well connected do you feel to “headquarters” right now? What does your prayer life honestly look like on a daily basis?
- 2 Four characteristics of prayer were named: praying continually, praying in the Spirit, praying for others, and praying boldly. Which is most challenging for you, and what gets in the way?
- 3 Paul's prayer request was not for easier circumstances but for boldness to proclaim the gospel. When you pray, what do you most commonly ask for? How might your prayers shift if you prioritized boldness and kingdom impact?
- 4 “Some of the greatest battles in your life will be fought in your moments of prayer.” Has there been a season where prayer felt like a genuine battle? What did you learn from it?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground** — spiritual opposition is real, and expected.
- ✓ **The call isn't to fight harder or run** — but to stand firm on the finished work of Christ.
- ✓ **The armor is God's provision** — we don't manufacture it; we receive it by faith and put it on.
- ✓ **People are not the enemy** — the real enemy works unseen through deception, distraction, discouragement, and division.

- ✓ **Prayer isn't just another piece of armor** — it's what activates the armor.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one or more to practice before your next meeting:

Option 1 Armor Audit

Honestly assess which pieces of the armor of God are present in your daily life and which are absent. Journal about what it would look like to put on each piece more intentionally.

Option 2 Replace the Lie

Identify one lie the enemy has whispered recently. Find a passage of Scripture that speaks truth against it, write it down, memorize it, and return to it every time the lie resurfaces.

Option 3 Pray for Boldness

Set aside time this week to pray for boldness to share the gospel—not for easier circumstances, but for courage and opportunity to point someone toward Christ.

Option 4 Pray for Someone by Name

Following Paul's example, identify one person in a spiritual battle right now. Pray for them by name every day this week, and consider letting them know you're doing so.

Option 5 Practice Prayer

Prayer warriors are developed through practice. Add ten intentional minutes of prayer to your daily routine this week—try praying Scripture aloud as a starting point.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- Am I wearing the whole armor of God, or walking into battles with pieces missing?
- Am I putting on the armor but retreating when the enemy comes against me?
- Am I activating the armor through prayer and staying connected to God's presence?

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for clarity to recognize the enemy's schemes without becoming consumed by them.
- Pray for the discipline and desire to put on the whole armor of God daily.
- Pray for boldness—not just for comfort or relief, but for courage to stand firm and proclaim the gospel.
- Pray for one another by name, lifting up any specific battles group members have shared.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our next series, “Unknown God,” explores the names of God in Scripture and what each reveals about His character. It concludes with an Encounter Service—a dedicated time of prayer and worship. Consider who in your life needs an encounter with the Lord, and begin praying now about inviting them.

“

You're not fighting for victory. You're standing firm in the victory Christ has already won.

PIECE OF WORK · WEEK EIGHT



PIECE OF WORK · A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

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