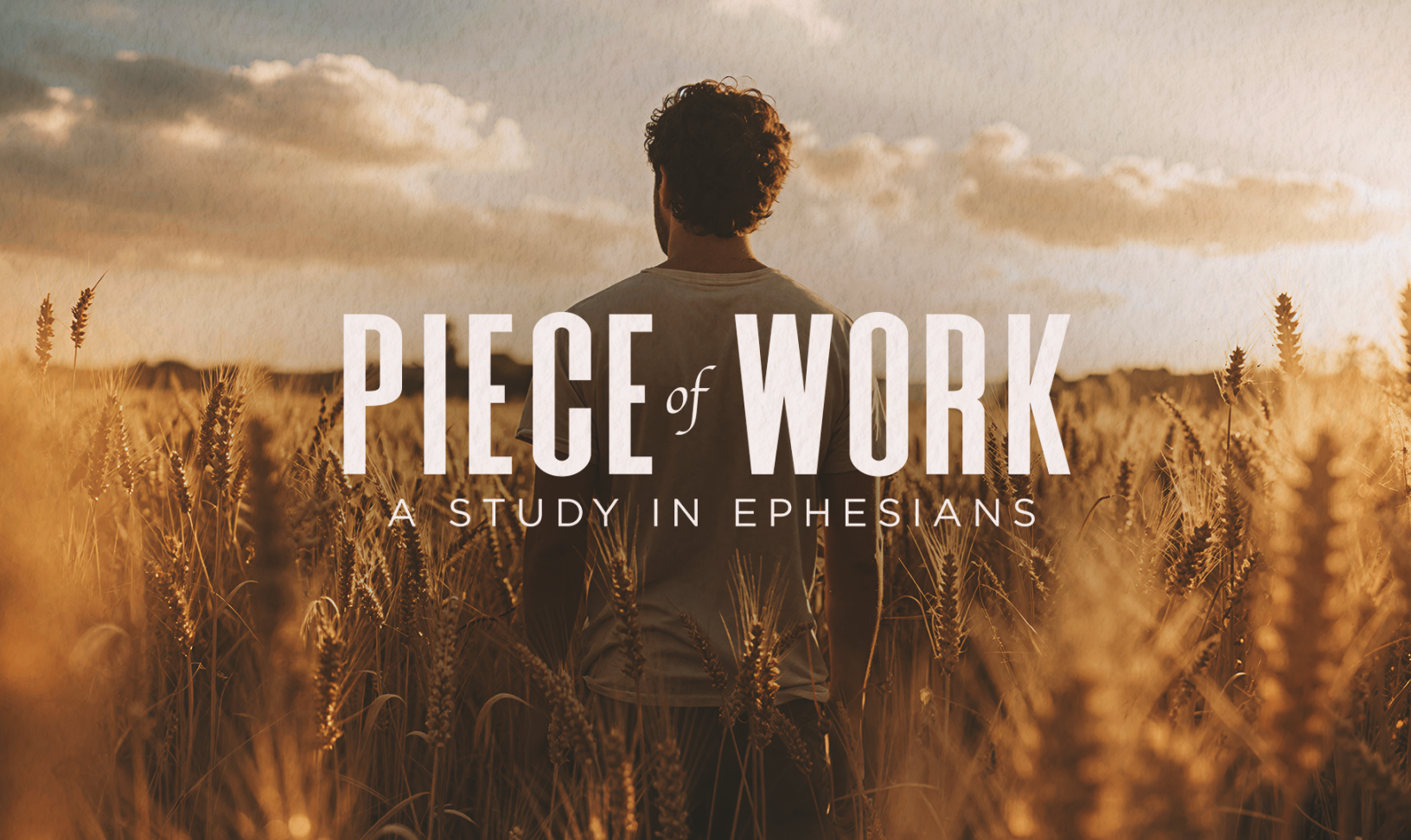




PIECE *of* WORK

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

WEEK FIVE

Made for More

Ephesians 3:1-21

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL • SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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?

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?

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?

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