

EPHESIANS: Week 2 – Living In Purpose

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

After speaking of the incredible blessings we receive from God, Paul prays for the Ephesian Christians. Paul doesn't pray for spiritual blessings but that they would realize the fullness of the blessings they already have. Paul prayed that they would know God and that they would know His calling on their life. He also prayed that they might know the fullness of God's riches and His indescribable power.

Tell the story – Ephesians 1:15-23 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God calls us to be people of faith and love; without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6); God commands that we encourage one another and build each other up (I Thess. 5:11); God grants us wisdom when we ask (James 1:5); God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7); God consistently encourages us to pray for others; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[If I take my eyes off of Jesus, I can quickly feel hopeless; my hope should only be placed in the work of Jesus Christ and in His return; I need to abide in a personal relationship with Jesus; I need to continually grow in my knowledge of who God is and what He has done (verse 17); because of my inheritance as a follower of Christ (Col. 3:4), I should live to please and glorify God; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Paul prayed for his readers to know God better. What does knowing God involve? How well do you know Him?
2. What does it look like for you to live as a person of hope rather than hopelessness?

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 2:1-10 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 2 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

- Review the guidelines with your Grow Group this week. Part of establishing a safe environment for discussing weighty matters is being clear about guidelines such as confidentiality.
- Model for your Grow Group and encourage them to use “I” statements when discussing the questions. We may have a tendency to say things like “People fall into sin again and again.” The discussion quickly goes deeper when that statement becomes “I fall into sin again and again.”

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

A new believer, or someone who has not grown in their walk with Christ, is called a spiritual infant. Spiritual infants don’t know what they don’t know. You may see this in their actions and hear it in their conversation.

To shepherd someone who is a spiritual infant, you must spend time caring for them. Share your life with them beyond just interaction during group meetings, so that they have an opportunity to see you modeling a Christian life. This also ensures that you are close by when they have questions. Share new truth by teaching them the foundations of the Bible, the church, the gospel, and prayer. Help them develop new habits of regular Bible reading, sharing the gospel, praying, and attending and participating at church.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Life can be demanding and we can forget to rest. We have several reasons for not resting such as: we believe we can get more done by not resting, we fear the silence, or maybe we are failing to trust God. Whatever the reason, be reminded today that God gave us an example of resting during creation in Genesis. Jesus also showed the importance of rest by stopping and spending time with the Father on several occasions. Encourage everyone in your group to evaluate themselves today, making sure that they are including rest in their routine.