

EPHESIANS: Week 6 – God’s Plan

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.]*

In this passage in Ephesians, Paul is reemphasizing and expanding on some of the truths that he had already mentioned. Paul affirms the transformational truth that, “Gentiles and Jews are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” Paul was absolutely overwhelmed by the gospel and it permeated his words and actions.

Tell the story – Ephesians 3:1-13 *[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 makes us fellow heirs and fellow members of the body of Christ; the riches of God’s grace are unfathomable; God is always at work around us (verse 7); God is the Creator of all things; God gives us access to Himself through Jesus Christ; God wants us to make the mystery of the gospel known to all people; God speaks to us through the Scriptures to encourage us and guide our steps; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I am a prisoner of Jesus Christ; I have access to my Heavenly Father because of what Jesus Christ did for me on the cross; all who follow Jesus Christ will face tribulation (II Timothy 3:12); as the church, we exist for God and His glory; as a believer, I am called to love others as God has loved me (John 15:12); I am called to make real sacrifices in serving others; 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. Discuss the persecution of our brothers and sisters around the world. How is their faith costing them? What example are they to us?
2. Is it a struggle for you to give up your “comfort” to serve others? Explain.

Assign next week’s passage – Ephesians 3:14-21 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 6 – 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]*

The storying method comes naturally for some and is a little more work for others. Here are some tips on storying:

- 1) Use your own words; don't memorize it, but tell it like you would a personal story.
- 2) Read through a children's Bible version of the scripture to gain ideas on how to make the passage more understandable.
- 3) Don't add commentary because there will be time to discuss things later.
- 4) Don't teach while storytelling. This is a time for the people in your group to hear God's Word and get personal with it. The Bible is powerful all on it's own. Let the Holy Spirit teach as the story is being told.

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

As Grow Group leaders, we have certain responsibilities. One of those is to help the people in our groups to take "growth risks." What does this mean exactly? Well, sometimes we might need to give someone a little push. You might challenge the members of your group to serve. You might also challenge someone who has never told the story to tell it the next week in group. Encourage them to pray about what leadership positions God may be calling them to step into.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

John 13:35 says, "By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The word "love" is used in many different ways, so it is important for disciples to have a good understanding of the Biblical concept of love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 begins, "Love is patient and kind." Patient love waits without becoming exasperated. It calmly explains again and again, listens to lengthy stories, and understands when mistakes are made. Kind love uses gentle words and cares tenderly.

Take inventory of your recent actions. Do the words above describe you? If not, take time today to confess those things to the Lord and ask for His power to overcome your human nature in those areas. You want to clearly display His love to the lost world around you.