

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Ephesians as a letter to the church in Ephesus. He wanted to remind them of the great blessings that come with being “in Christ” and help the church remember the good and beautiful works of God and His purposes in the world. As we study Ephesians, we will remember the Gospel as the good story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We, too, receive great blessing by being in Christ and because of what He has done for us, everything changes.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:

- Set aside time each day to work through your devotional – schedule it if you need to! Spend time sitting quietly and open in prayer to settle yourself. Read the passage and reread it as many times as you need. Contemplate and answer the questions as they are helpful.
- Ask yourself, what about this passage is like what I already believe? What might I need to remember? What might God be calling my attention to? What is here that I might need to rediscover or reimagine?
- Try to recollect your devotional time throughout your day, sharing your experiences with family and friends if you’re able, to continue the process.

Monday, September 2nd

Read Ephesians 5:1-14

Who in your life would you say is an imitator of God? What does it look like to be an imitator of God? What impact do imitators of God have on the people and environments around them?

What do love and offering and sacrifice have to do with one another? In what way did Christ love through offering and sacrifice? How do you show love through offering and sacrifice?

Why do you think Paul mentions sexual immorality so frequently? Why do you think his words about honoring the body follow his words about love and sacrifice? How might honoring the body be a form of good and beautiful offering and sacrifice?

What does it mean to be children of light? What is light in your life? What darkness has been exposed? What areas of your life might need light right now?

Tuesday, September 3rd

Read Ephesians 5:15-33

Wisdom, gratitude and submission are all linked together here. Why do you think that is?

Submission is about yielding to another person – why should people be mutually submissive? What would be wise about that? What goodness might be in that design? What about it would reflect God? Why would submission lead to reverence (or respect) for God and what He has done?

Paul tells the church in Ephesus that submission is a big part of marriage. Why do you think Paul teaches about submission in relation to what Christ did for the church?

What about Christ’s submission and Christ’s love for the church can be imitated by us? What do you think submission could communicate about the gospel? What might we rediscover about the gospel through good and holy submission?

Wednesday, September 4th

Read Ephesians 6:1-9

During this time, children didn’t have rights and were often considered an annoyance. Slaves were a legal part of society and would be referred to here as employees or someone with whom you have leadership over. All of us have someone who has leadership over us – whether a parent or a boss or a guardian.

Why is obedience and cheerfulness important in these relationships? If we are obedient and service-oriented with the Lord in mind, what impact could that have on us and the people around us?

Most of us also have someone whom we have leadership over – why does it matter that we remember who our Master and Leader is during our leadership?

Thursday, September 5th

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

How have you received strength from the Lord? What has that looked like in your life?

Strength here is associated with many things – truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, prayer and the word of God. Do you feel filled with strength? Do you feel the presence of those other things? Why or why not? What would it take to be strong in the Lord?

Paul mentions “praying at all times in the Spirit” – do you think that’s possible? Why or why not? What does it look like to pray in the Spirit? What impact does Paul say it has? Where would you like prayer to grow in your life?

What encouragement and protection does this passage offer you?

Friday, September 6th

Read Ephesians 6:21-24

When you think back to the entire letter to the church in Ephesians, what do you think encouraged their hearts? What would have been inspiring for them to hear? How might the Ephesians have rediscovered and reimagined the good news of Jesus?

Where have you rediscovered the good news of Jesus? What changes in your life have you seen? What might God be leading you to stop doing, continue or start doing in order to rediscover the gospel?

“With love incorruptible” is a beautiful phrase (v.24) – to encounter a love that cannot be tainted and that is everlasting. How does your life communicate that you’ve encountered love incorruptible? How do you share that with other people around you? Where have you seen that love redeem and restore the things and people around you?

REDISCOVER / REIMAGINE

GOSPEL

DEVO | August 31/September 1