



EPHESIANS

WHO WE ARE + HOW WE WALK



DOXA DEO

WEEK 1

EPHESIANS DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

What happens when the good news of salvation becomes so good to someone that not only does their understanding of their identity shift, but their entire life starts changing?

Ephesians asks the question, what happens when my private faith starts speaking up in public?
What will my relationships look like?
What will my vocation look like?

This wonderful letter was not written to address a specific heresy or problem in the church.

It was written as a grand explanation of the greatness of God's plan for salvation for His people
- and the implications thereof
in the lives of those who follow Christ.

The gospel will create a family on mission.



LET'S LOOK AT WHO THIS FAMILY IS + HOW THEY WALK.

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOKLET?

You are about to embark on a journey of discovery. Discovering the incredible wealth and vastness of God's salvation plan for you and that it is meant to empower you in the here and now for a life of godliness.



Step 1

Get a cup of coffee and a quiet spot where you can spend some time with the Creator of the universe.

The Holy Spirit inspired scripture and reveals scripture to us. Ask God to come and reveal these scriptures to you.



Step 2

Now take some time to read the portion of scripture for the day.

Read it more than once and consider reading it in different translations to get a better understanding of what's being said.



Step 3

Take some time to reflect on the day's reading by answering the reflection questions for the day's devotion.



Step 4

Spend some time in prayer responding to what God revealed to you in today's reading.

“Search the inspired book and desire to know everything it teaches”

- CHARLES SPURGEON

CHAPTER 1 - 3

WHO WE ARE

This book can be divided into two halves.

The 1st half (chapter 1 – 3) deals with the greatness of salvation and God's plan to put everything under the lordship of Jesus.

The 1st half is all about my relationship to God through the work of Jesus.

The 1st half answers the question of my identity & my relation to God through the work of His Son Jesus.

It also answers the question of where my new identity fits into God's kingdom in relation to His people, the church.

Let's dive into Ephesians.

WEEK 1 | CHAPTER 1

Right from the start,
Paul cannot hold back his praise
and thankfulness unto God!

His heart is full. But why?

As Paul is writing to brothers
and sisters who also follow Jesus,
it becomes clear that the reason for
his outburst of praise is that he realized
before the universe was formed,
God had a plan.

The Son would be the fulfilment of that plan.
And the Holy Spirit would guarantee it.

Paul ends chapter 1 with a prayer
that all believers would always be reminded
of this wonderful truth.

DAY 1: Ephesians 1: 1 – 3

"I can't hold in my thanksgiving!"

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am **writing to God's holy people in Ephesus**, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.

2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 3 **All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.**

- 1) Write down your own name in the space indicated:
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed _____ with every spiritual
blessing in the heavenly realms because
_____ is united with Christ.
- 2) Now read the statement again, with your own name in those spaces.
 - How do you feel knowing that you are blessed with every spiritual blessing because you are united with Christ?
 - How do you feel knowing God calls you holy?
- 3) Write down your own prayer of thanksgiving.
Thank God that you can belong to Him and be united to Him through the work of Christ.

DAY 2: Ephesians 1: 4 – 6

"The plan of the Father"

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.

This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son.

God's greatest pleasure, before He even made anything, was the thought of your adoption into His family.

- 1) Write down what this passage reveals to you about GOD.
 - 2) Write down what this passage reveals about YOU.
 - 3) God's plan was to adopt us and make us His children. A child can never forfeit their identity as child. No matter what happens I am never more or less the child of my parent.
- How does it make you feel knowing that no matter what you do, you are still His child?

DAY 3 Ephesians 1: 7 – 10

"The work of the Son"

He is so rich in kindness and grace that **He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.**

He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us His mysterious will regarding Christ, which is to fulfil His own good plan.

And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ, everything in heaven and on earth.

God's plan for your adoption is made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection.

- 1) If your forgiveness had to be purchased with the blood of Jesus, what does that say about your worth in God's eyes?
- 2) How does it make you feel knowing you were purchased? What does that say about your identity? Pray over your own heart, that you would see yourself the way God does.

DAY 4: Ephesians 1: 11 – 14

"The guarantee of the Spirit"

Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan. God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you.

And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. **The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him.**

- 1) This passage teaches me that my new found identity is sealed by the _____
- 2) This passage teaches me that my new found identity should lead to the _____ and _____ of God

Write down a prayer, thanking God for giving you His Holy Spirit as a seal and guarantee that you belong to Him.

DAY 5: Ephesians 1: 15 – 23

" Never stop praying about this "

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called – His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.**

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him.

This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else, not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

- 1) Read verse 17 – 19 again. What is Paul praying over the believers in these verses regarding their identity?
- 2) Pray this same prayer over yourself