

Uniting

ALL THINGS
IN CHRIST

an Ephesians study

HUB GROUP NOTES | APRIL 18, 2021 David Anderson

Read Ephesians 1:1-2 twice: *"From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!"*

Break into three groups (it can be up to four people in a group) and have each group cover one of the areas: Who is Paul? Who are the recipients of this epistle? What does Paul want them to experience? Once the groups do their research, have them share their findings with the whole group.

1) **Who is Paul?** *From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...*

- Read Acts 22:3-4, Philippians 3:4-6. What do we learn about Paul from these passages?
- Read Mark 3:13-15, Acts 1:22 & 1 Cor. 15:3-9. Is Paul an apostle? What makes him qualified to be an apostle?
- Read Romans 11:13, Phil 3:6 & Acts 9:15. Which people group was Paul's focus as an apostle?

2) **Who are the recipients of this epistle?** *To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.*

- Ephesians doesn't have very many personal references or specific issues that Paul is addressing. Why do you think that is?
- Many suspect Ephesians was written to the church in Ephesus but also the whole region of western Asia Minor (Acts 19:9-11).
- Name some other churches in Asia Minor that this letter may have gone to (Read Revelation 2:8, 12, 18 & 3:1, 7, 14)
- Why does Paul use the title "saint" more than other names for a Christian?
- What does it mean to be a "saint"? (Consecrated/dedicated/set-apart to God by the work of Christ. Read Ephesians 1:4 & 5:25-27)

3) What does Paul want them to experience? *Grace and peace to you from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- “Grace” is mentioned 12 times in Ephesians and “peace” is mentioned 7 times. Why are these ideas such significant themes in this epistle?
 - Read Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:7-9, 3:7-8, 4:7. From these verses in Ephesians, how would your group define “grace”?
 - Read Ephesians 2:17-18 & 4:1-3. How do these verses help your group to understand the “peace” that God wants to give us through the Lord Jesus Christ?
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2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people - the Nyamwezi - by 2030.

Children’s Pastor Jessica Lee is asking us to PRAY ABOUT volunteering to assist with this year’s Vacation Bible School, happening June 14-18. If this grabs your heart and you’d like to know more, contact her at jessica.lee@churchoftheopendoor.com.