

# EPHESIANS SERIES

**a more than able**

*kinda Life*

**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

*Living in the Light of Easter*

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**CLAYTON CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**2024**

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# **preface**

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**“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”**

**Ephesians 2:6-7**

Jesus is RISEN!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Christ has won the victory on the cross!

He won the victory for me and you!

He has opened wide the door to the Father and all who repent and believe can now walk into the Father's presence and receive Eternal Life!

Salvation has come! But this is not the end, it is just the beginning of our life as disciples of Christ!

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you!” John 20:21

**As we are walking together through the book of Ephesians, we are challenged to consider:**

*“How then should we live in the Light of Christ's victory at Easter”.*

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# week 1

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1) Note the word pictures or metaphors that the apostle Paul uses to describe our state before and after faith in Christ.

- Dead in sin vs Alive in Christ Ephesians 2:1 & 2:5
- Far off vs Brought near Ephesians 2:13 & 2:17
- Aliens & Foreigners vs Members of God's household Ephesians 2:19

What is the common reality portrayed by each of these metaphors about our state in relationship with God?

In each case what is the change brought about by turning to Christ in faith?

2) How might you best explain this reality to your non-believing friend in order for them to grasp the essence of the gospel message?

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3) Consider Ephesians 2:8-9, what can I do to earn God's forgiveness or to make me more acceptable to God?

4) Note Ephesians 2:10. After having been saved through faith in Jesus Christ alone, what is God's expectation and plan for our life thereafter?

### **PUT IT INTO ACTION**

Pray for one another in regard to

- Being able to share the gospel truth with someone that God will show you
  - Learning to hear God's voice and follow His leading in the plans that He has for you
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# week 2

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1) Considering Ephesians 4:1-6, discuss how can you "live a life worthy of your calling"?

- Is this about doing or accomplishing something?
- Or "being the right type of person"?
- Reflect on parallel passages in Colossians 3:12-14 and Galatians 5:22-23

2) From the apostle Paul's urging, do you get the sense of being called to be a "lone-star Super-Christian" or a "member of Christ's team"?

3) From Ephesians 4:12-13, what does the apostle Paul describe as the goal of the church body?

- How is this to happen, consider Ephesians 4:11 and 4:16
  - Which parts of the body are involved in this divinely orchestrated process? How?
  - Compare with 1 Corinthians 12:6-7 and 12:18-22
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4) Considering Ephesians 4:22-24, what is the believing Christian's ongoing daily task in order to live the life that Jesus calls us to?

- Put off \_\_\_\_\_
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your mind
- Put on \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss how you can put this daily into practice.

### **PUT IT INTO ACTION**

Pray for one another

- how can you be and operate as the body that Christ desires you to be, and
  - how can you together work at these goals of unity and maturity in Christ that God has purposed for us.
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# week 3

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1) From Ephesians 5:1-2, we are called to be imitators of God, and 'to walk in love' following Christ's example. Discuss what may be the challenges and how you will practically do this in case of

- With your spouse or family members
- With your friends
- With your neighbours or colleagues

2) Considering Ephesians 5:8-10, we are called to 'walk as children of the light'.

Would you agree that this can be expressed as "living as if God was in the same room with you"? Discuss whether you agree.

3) Consider Ephesians 5:15-21, we are called to "walk as wise men (& women)".

In "walking as wise", as described, what role should God have in my daily walk?

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4) The passage in Ephesians 5:22-33, describes God's design for marriage life. Note that the roles are different, ie. wives need to be given love, and husbands need to be given respect.

However, how do you see the relative status or 'superiority' of either spouse?

- A) Both husband and wife have the same status before God
- B) One spouse is superior to the other

- Reconcile your view with the prelude in Ephesians 5:21
  
- Consider how the "walking as wise" guidelines should be lived out in marriage.

### **PUT IT INTO ACTION**

Pray for one another

- how can you better live the life Christ desires you live (worthy & wise)
  
  - if you are married: "how can you together with your spouse best model the marriage life God intends, ie. a reflection of Christ's love for his church".
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# week 4

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1) Consider Ephesians 6:1-9 where the apostle Paul describes how household relationships should operate in submission to Christ. Note that slaves also were considered part of the household. (somewhat akin to a live-in maid in some SE Asian countries, or consider Joseph as a slave in Potiphar's household).

Note the overriding principle for these relationships, irrespective of what is a person's specific role in the household, ie. Ephesians 6:6-8. Restate this principle in your own words.

Discuss how this foundational principle applies to each role.

How does this principle apply to your role in your family/ household/ workplace/ social group?

What do you think will be the benefit or fruit of living out God's way in this setting?

The passage seems to 'condone slavery'? Discuss, whether or not you agree? Is God partial? (compare Ephesians 6:9)

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2) In the passage Ephesians 6:10-17 Paul exhorts us to "put on the full armour of God".

Why do we need to put on the "armour of God"?

Who is fighting against us? In all our struggles, according to the apostle Paul, who is the real enemy?

Consider the different parts of the "armour of God" in this spiritual warfare and describe why each of these is necessary.

- Girding your loins with Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Feet shod with Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit

Which parts of your armour do you think you should work at?

### **PUT IT INTO ACTION**

Pray for one another

- that you can live out God's way more closely in your family / household/ relationships
  - that God's blessing would be on these relationships as you live out God's way and that God would open doors for the gospel
  - that you would be able to stand firm in your faith amidst whatever struggles you face as you put on the armour of God
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