

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

EPHESIANS

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

EPHESIANS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special DriveTime Devotions Small Group Study. This six-week study on Ephesians is designed so that you can enjoy DriveTime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of DriveTime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. Here at Saddleback Church, we believe it's better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

In DriveTime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million

downloads, DriveTime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. There are three ways you can access this podcast study on Ephesians:

1. Click on the link at the start of each session of this study guide.
2. Download the DriveTime Devotions app to your phone or tablet. Go to “Devotions” and select “Ephesians.”
3. Go to drivetimedevotions.com/devotions/ephesians.

If you prefer reading the devotional study over listening to a podcast, you can purchase the book, *Ephesians: Six Choices for Making the Most of What You’ve Been Given*, at Pastors.com.

HELPFUL TIP

Depending on your device settings, you may need to select the PLAY BUTTON  or the UNMUTE BUTTON  on the Drivetime audio player when it is fully loaded.



HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out, unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages on [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

HELPFUL TIP

For best experience on Android platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader.





A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted. Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.



WEEK ONE: Ephesians 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. If you are a new group, take time to go around the room and further get to know each other. Besides your name, share where you were born and what brought you to the group.
2. Suppose that you suddenly came into great riches: What is one of the first things you would you do for others? What would you do for yourself?



KEY VERSE

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. God sees you “in Christ” right now. What kind of assurance does that give your heart?
2. God has adopted us through Jesus Christ. With that in mind, how can you live your life “to the praise of his glorious grace?”
3. Adopted, redeemed, and forgiven. What do those three words mean to you now?
4. How does the reality of the Spirit’s ownership and protection impact your confidence in Christ and your relationships with others?

5. How have you experienced God giving you hope even amidst problems?
6. What circumstance are you facing where you personally need God's power? How do these verses encourage you?



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Who do you know that needs to hear the good news of adoption, redemption, and forgiveness? What difference would it make in their life? Share his or her name with your group, and then during your prayer time, ask God to open a door of opportunity for you to talk to this person about Jesus Christ. Between now and your next group meeting, send this person an email or invite them out for coffee and share with them your story of what adoption, redemption and forgiveness has meant to you. It's really quite simple. Just tell them what your life was like before you knew Jesus Christ and the difference it has made to know you are adopted, redeemed and forgiven by God.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK TWO: Ephesians 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. Take a moment to see whether anyone had an opportunity to talk to or write the person they are hoping will hear the good news that you shared at the end of last week's meeting.
2. What does the word "grace" mean to you?



KEY VERSE

*For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God.*

Ephesians 2:8



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. If sin brings death, why do we sin? Verses 1–3
2. How do you see the grace and kindness of God exhibited in your daily life? Verses 4–7
3. What is the danger of a "works based" relationship with God? Verses 8–10
4. How do you see "God's workmanship" being worked out in your life? Verses 8–10
5. What does it mean to you personally that you have been brought near, that the barrier of the dividing wall has been broken down? Verses 11–16
6. How have you experienced what it means to be a "member of God's household?" Verses 18–22



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

Spend some time this week focusing on the great grace of God. Whenever you are tempted this week to look down on yourself with some inner comment or thought, remind yourself of the fact that you are saved by God's grace. Use Satan's temptations to belittle yourself as a trigger to maximize the grace of God in your thoughts. When you make a mistake at work and say to yourself, "Stupid," follow that up by thinking, "BUT . . . saved by the grace of an awesome God!"



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK THREE: Ephesians 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. Were there thoughts or experiences in which God's grace was made more real to you during this last week?
2. Who was one of the first people who helped you to understand the love of God?



KEY VERSE

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17-18



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. For whose sake are you serving? Verse 1
2. Are there things in your life that seemed like a mystery but have now been made clear because of your relationship with Jesus? Verses 2-5
3. How do you see God's grace and power strengthening you as a servant? How do you experience the challenge towards humility? Verses 7-13
4. How have you seen God's wisdom being made known through the church in your own life? Verses 7-11

WEEK THREE

5. How could another believer's sufferings be "your glory?" Verse 13
6. How do you experience God's power coming into your life "out of His glorious riches, through His Spirit, in your inner being." Verses 16–17
7. How do the four measures of God's love—high, long, wide, deep—help you to see or describe the love of God as revealed in your life? Verses 17–19
8. What would it take (or has it taken) for you to begin to believe that God can truly do "immeasurably more?" Verses 20–21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

Take some time this week to journal about the greatness of God's love. In your journal, write the four words "high, long, deep, wide"—and then write down what comes to mind concerning how those words describe your experience of God's love. What experiences do these words remind you of? What Scripture verses do they bring to mind? Are there people that God has used in your life that have shown God's love to you in these ways?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FOUR: Ephesians 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. Share some of what you wrote in your journal this last week about the height, depth, length and width of God's love.
2. What are some of the new things that you see God doing in the world that particularly bring you joy?



KEY VERSE

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What for you is part of the "every effort" that we need to make towards unity? Verse 3
2. Who is God using in your life to "prepare you for works of service?" Verse 12
3. Is there someone to whom you need to speak the truth in love? How could your group encourage you towards that conversation? Verses 15-16
4. Have you experienced the frustration of trying to put on the new before you put off the old? Verses 20-24

WEEK FOUR

5. As Paul talks of putting off the old, he gives the Ephesians examples of anger, lying, stealing and hurtful words; where do you need to put off the old? Verses 25–32
6. How could your group be a help to you in putting off the old, putting on the new and being renewed in your mind?



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Ephesians 4 is one of the great chapters of the Bible expressing the truth that it takes the whole body of Christ working together to build up the body of Christ. How can you put that powerful truth to work in your life today, both individually and as a group? Think of one way your group can be “the joints and ligaments” of the body of Christ this week. Who can you serve and what can you do in Jesus’ name? Take a few minutes to plan a group service project. What will you do? When will you do it? Who will coordinate the project?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

EPHESIANS: SMALL GROUP STUDY



WEEK FIVE: Ephesians 5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

How do you handle it when you get physically or emotionally weary as you seek to put off the old and put on the new?



KEY VERSE

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What helps you to cut through your own feelings of inadequacy so that you can work towards the command in verse 1 to imitate God?
2. What does it mean for you, right now . . . today, to live a life of love? What choices and actions are a part of that life? Verse 1
3. How could words of thanksgiving become more a part of your daily conversations? Verses 3–5
4. What does it feel like/look like in your life for you to see God's Spirit filling your actions and attitudes and words? Verses 15–20

5. How could you having an attitude of submission (trading in your selfishness to serve others) make a difference in your family right now? Or in your work or with friends? How does your reverence for Christ strengthen your attitude of submission?
Verse 21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

One of the great expressions of fellowship for every believer is the fellowship that we have with our physical family. This chapter reminds us that one of the great actions of fellowship towards our family is the decision to submit to one another and serve one other. How can you serve someone in your family this week: husband or wife, son or daughter, dad or mom, aunt or uncle, brother or sister ... ? Whether it seems like a small action or a huge sacrifice, what way of serving your family is God bringing to mind right now and how could you plan to do it?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

EPHESIANS: SMALL GROUP STUDY

WEEK SIX



WEEK SIX: Ephesians 6



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. How did it go with serving your family this last week? Any expressions of great surprise?
2. Our feelings tend to change from day to day as we face the reality of evil in this world, depending on our strength and our circumstances. What feelings are you currently going through as you face the schemes of Satan? Discouragement, anger, victory, numbness, despair, hope?



KEY VERSE

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:11



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. If you're a parent, in what ways do verses 1–4 challenge you? Or encourage you? Or strengthen you? Or convict you? Or direct you?
2. Is there a job or task in your life where you could begin to serve more for the Lord and less “for men?” What would that look like for you? Verse 7
3. What “schemes” do you see the devil trying to use against you again and again? Verse 11
4. It's not enough for you to know about the armor of God; you must put on the armor of God. How do you personally do that? What

WEEK SIX

process or prayers or thinking do you go through in order to “put on” the armor of God in your daily life?

5. Is there an idea or example in verses 18–20 that could be strengthening to your prayer life? That might take your prayer life in a different direction or might add something that you haven’t been doing?
6. As you look back over your study of Ephesians, what are some ways that God has spoken to your heart and life? What is one truth that you want to be sure to carry forward into your life from this study?



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

One of the greatest weapons that we have in our battle against Satan is the Word of God. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he was able to quote from portions of the Bible in order to answer Satan’s lies. Choose a verse that you’d like to memorize this week. If you’re particularly courageous, ask your group to check you on how you are doing next week when you meet!



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

NEXT STEPS

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: PHILIPPIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this four-week study through the book of Philippians. This study will help you learn the eight places where joy is won or lost.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER AGAIN WHEN IT'S ALL FALLEN APART

Walk through Pastor Tom's book together for seven weeks and follow the small group study guide provided with the book. This study will help teach you principles for rebuilding your life. Books are available for purchase at Pastors.com.



FOUNDATIONS

Written by Tom Holladay and Kay Warren, *Foundations* teaches 11 core truths of the Christian faith. Choose individual topics such as "The Bible" or "Creation," or walk through the entire course using video teaching from Tom and Kay. Study guides are available at Pastors.com and all *Foundations* videos are available at saddleback.com/foundations. You can also look for *Foundations* classes taught live at a campus near you at saddleback.com/foundations.



