

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

## EPHESIANS: In Christ

### SERIES BIG IDEA:

Ephesus was an important coastal city, well-known for its rich history, economic hubs, religious temples, as well as the arts, not unlike Cape Town. Paul's letter to the Ephesian church illuminates how the gospel grows our faith and discipleship, and gives practical insights into living a life pleasing to God, and shows how the gospel engages with culture. Join us as we start our Ephesians journey with the series "In Christ".

### Week 1

#### GOALS

- Deepen our understanding and love of Scripture
- Grow in relationship with each other
- Grow in our confidence in God and the gospel

#### TIPS

- This series is theological, it is preferable to have listened to the Sunday messages, especially the person leading the Life Group discussion.
- Life Group Leaders, we suggest doing a little more reading of Ephesians commentary over this series to equip yourself for leading well. It is our hope that over these series, our leaders are going deeper in Scripture to be able to lead out of a richer depth of pursuit and understanding of God and his word. Some good commentaries to consider reading over this time:
  - <http://www.slices.org.uk/Slicesforall/sfeEphesians.html>
  - <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/ephesians/>

#### HEADLINES FROM SUNDAY

Intro entire series and mini-series.

Context to the book of Ephesians.

- The city of Ephesus.
- Look at the birth of the church in Ephesus

Get to know the white hot faith of Paul, the man behind the words in the book of Ephesians, living out the reality of being "In Christ".

As we follow his example of faith we learn 6 six things about the faith of the man who wrote the book of Ephesians.

- i. Spirit-Empowered (V20:22)
- ii. Spirit-Empowered perseverance (v20:18-19)
- iii. Spirit-Empowered boldness (v20:20)
- iv. Spirit-Empowered message (v20:21)
- v. Spirit-Empowered mission (v 20:22-27)
- vi. Spirit-Empowered impact. (19:23-41)

## PRAYER

Open in prayer.

## DISCUSSION

1. Have a check-in and see how the group is doing. Ask what one thing God has been saying to them personally over the last while.

Life Group Leader's, we are going to spend 18 Sunday's over this year looking at Ephesians in-depth. For tonight, we suggest the Bible Project's summary of the book of Ephesians to whet your group's appetite for our journey. The Ephesians journey will be broken up into 5 sub-series and interspersed with our others series in the year. This first 5 week series is called "In Christ". This guide is a suggestion on how you can get your group excited about the journey.

2. Watch this video on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>
3. Read the following scriptures: Acts 19:23-41 and Acts 20:17-28
4. Are there any things from the video that made you especially excited about the Ephesians journey we are embarking on?
5. Are there any ways that you as a group could go deeper in this journey? (E.G. Slices by Michael Eaton, other commentaries (links are in Tips above)? WhatsApp group to encourage each other each day as you work through the book during the series?)

## PRAY

Spend some time praying for the Ephesians journey as a community and as a Life Group. Let's pray and trust for enriched lives of faith and growth in the weeks to come.