



Get a Life!

Ephesians

Introduction: Paul's Letter to the church at Ephesus

Lesson One

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Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Introduction: Paul's Letter To The Church At Ephesus

Lesson Goal: To show students the background and purpose of the book of Ephesians.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1, 2

Today we begin a study of the book of Ephesians. This book was written by the Apostle Paul. He was one of the most important leaders of the early Christian church. *

Right after Jesus ascended into Heaven, the believers were given courage and power, by God's Holy Spirit, to go into all the world and tell people about God's love as they saw it through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They began to do this in Jerusalem. Soon, some of them were forced to leave Jerusalem and go to other places in the world. Wherever they went, they continued to tell people about God's love and Jesus.

One of the reasons that many Christians began to leave Jerusalem was persecution. The Jewish religious leaders did not believe that they were right in believing that Jesus was God's Son. Many were arrested for their belief and some were killed. One of the leaders of this persecution was a man named Saul.

One day, as Saul was going to a town called Damascus to arrest more Christians, God spoke to him. Right there on the road to Damascus Saul became a Christian and his name was changed to Paul. He spent time with other Christians being tutored in what Jesus had done and said. He added that to his very strong education in Old Testament Scriptures, and became one of the strongest teachers of Christianity in the whole world.

He spent many years going from place to place teaching about God's love and Jesus. As he went from place to place, people believed and he organized churches made up of these new believers. One of the places he went was the city of Ephesus. This city was a sea port, a capital city of the Roman province of Asia in the extreme western portion of what is now the country of Turkey. It was a city where many gods were worshiped, including the worship of the emperor of Rome. Paul spent many months in Ephesus and showed many people how to know and follow God. When he left, there was a strong Christian church there.

Later, Paul was arrested and sent to Rome to be judged. While he was there, in prison, he wrote letters to churches to encourage them and further teach them in Christian beliefs. The letters that are included in the New Testament are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon which was written to an individual.

Today, we can email or text-message someone and they will instantly know what we have to say. That wasn't

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true in Paul's day. In the case of the letter to the church at Ephesus, he wrote it, probably dictated it to someone who was good at writing. Then, he sent it by someone who would either walk, ride a horse, or go by boat (maybe all three) to the destination. Obviously, it took a while to get there.

Most of the letters from Paul to the churches have an evident purpose. In most of the letters we can find specific problems or subjects Paul responds to in the churches. However, in Ephesians, he seems to simply emphasize and add to things the folks at Ephesus already knew. This book speaks to Christians as they live and work together in relationships. The most important relationship that Christians have is with Christ. However, he also speaks to relationships in the church and even relationships in marriage.

Paul begins the letter by identifying himself as an apostle. By that he means that he is one called to a specific task by God Himself. He goes on to say, in the first verse, that he is writing to the "saints in Ephesus." the word "saints" here speaks of all the people who have believed in Jesus and trust Him as their Savior and Lord. He goes on to call them the "faithful in Christ Jesus."

There are some really important lessons in Ephesians for Christians. In this series we will look very closely at the church, the fellowship of believers. We will look at how Christians should behave toward one another. We will look at how people can get along and please God when they are married. We will look at our daily behavior as we live in God's Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse: "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." Ephesians 1:4

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Student Worksheet

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>Ephesians was written by the Apostle _____. He was one of the most important _____ of the early Christian _____.

>One of the reasons that many Christians began to leave Jerusalem was _____. One of the leaders of this persecution was a man named _____.

>As Saul was going to a town called Damascus to _____ more Christians, God spoke to him. Right there Saul became a Christian and his name was changed to _____.

>Paul spent many months in Ephesus and showed many people how to _____ and _____ God. When he left, there was a strong Christian _____ there.

>While Paul was in _____, he wrote letters to churches to _____ them and further teach them in Christian _____.

>This book speaks to Christians as they _____ and _____ together in relationships.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.