

Ephesians

A Real Piece of Work

Week One

This week and for the next two weeks we'll focus on the **Observe** stage of Bible Study. We'll start by reading and asking "What do I see?" First, read the whole Book of Ephesians in one sitting (it's just a few pages long) and answer a few questions about what you saw. Then, read the focus passage for the week. Finally, you'll practice two skills that will help you really see what the passage says.

Mark up the passage. We've printed out the passage for you to make it easy. Marking the passage can help you focus and really see what's written. The following are suggestions on what/how to mark, but feel free to use any method that works for you.

1. **Highlight** anything that's repeated often. You can usually skip words like "a, an, the, he, she, it..."
2. **Underline** any commands, warnings, or promises.
3. **Box** words that link one thought to another. For example:
 - "and & likewise" show a comparison
 - "or & but" show a contrast
 - "therefore & so that" show a result of something
 - "because & since" show a reason for something
4. Add arrows, lines, etc. to show words and phrases that are linked together. Make a note to indicate what the link is.
5. Note lists by numbering the items in them. 1...2...3...4...
6. **Circle** key terms. These are words that seem important or "key" to the meaning of the passage. They point to the main idea being stated.
7. Create your own symbols. A heart might indicate emotion. A triangle, a name of God.
8. If you have a question about what something means, note it with a question mark--?

Write one or two observations for each verse. Work your way through the passage a verse at a time, listing whatever you observe. When you see something, add it to your list. We left a wide margin to the right of the passage for this list. Relax and remember; no detail is too small or too obvious. Questions (like, "What does this word mean?") count as observations.

The Bible says, "...don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22, NLT) *The final step in any Bible Study is to apply it in our lives. In other words, we must answer the question, "How does this work for me?" Many people have found it helpful to use the acronym, **SPECK**, as a guide. When we SPECK a passage we ask ourselves, is there...*

- S**- a SIN to avoid or repent?
- P**- a PROMISE to claim?
- E**- an EXAMPLE to follow?
- C**- a COMMAND to obey?
- K**- KNOWLEDGE of God to believe?

If this seems like a lot to take in, remember we'll be practicing these things for the rest of our study. And everything gets easier with practice. We're all in this together. Do what you can, and come back next week ready to share with your small group.

Week One Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Read the Book of Ephesians, straight through, in one sitting.

You will notice that this is a letter. As you read, look for answers to the following questions:

Who is the writer(s)?

Who are the recipients?

What seems to be the reason for the letter?

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

Observations

¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Apply (How Does it WORK?)

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

S—a SIN to avoid

P—a PROMISE to claim

E—an EXAMPLE to follow

C—a COMMAND to obey

K—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the user to write their application of the text above.