

Ephesians

A Real Piece of Work

Week Three

We pray that as you continue to practice using your Bible Study tools, you are not only getting more comfortable and confident with this process, but that God is using it to show you something about Himself and His love for you. The goal of this series is that we would all develop habits that deepen our relationship with God. If we merely develop some skills or grow in knowledge, we've missed the mark. We urge you to think of your Bible Study time as a Conversation, not an Assignment. When we remind you to pray, it's not an item on your Bible Study List to be checked off. Prayer is our side of this conversation with God. We approach God, and He speaks to us. We respond to what He says. He speaks some more. Sometimes we don't understand what he's saying. So we ask. A conversation.

*This week, the step we're adding to the Bible Study process is **Asking Questions**. Often, as we look at a passage, there will be things we don't understand. Maybe we see an unfamiliar word, or a word that's used in a way that doesn't make sense to us. Maybe there's an unfamiliar place or person or event mentioned. When you see something and think, "What does that mean?" make note of it. You might like to put a question mark (?) right on top of the confusing part in the passage, to remind yourself. We've also provided a place for you to write out your questions right after "Lump and Label" this time. In future weeks, we'll talk about strategies for finding answers to our questions. This week, we're just making note of them...and asking our Father about them. That's the best place to start with questions, anyway.*

Week Three Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

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

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)

Observations

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to

create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

“Lump and Label”...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

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

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