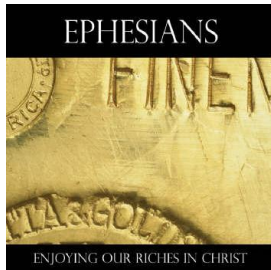


# Ephesians



Paul writes a letter from prison to the Ephesian church 8 years after his first visit to proclaim the excellencies of what had been accomplished through the great work of the cross.

Ephesus was a highly influential city, spiritually and financially, during Paul's lifetime. Financially, Ephesus benefited from extensive roads, a harbor, and a river that permitted the free movement of people, goods, and variety of spiritual beliefs and practices. Spiritually, roughly 50 gods and goddesses were worshipped in Ephesus. It was also the home of magic and sorcery that was used to cast spells upon enemies.

Ephesus, however, was best known for the Temple of Artemis (also known as the Temple of Diana to the Romans) that was regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Artemis was the great goddess and supreme spiritual being of the Ephesus (she was called savior, lord, and queen) who was revered and adored by more people in that region than any other god or goddess.

Austin, like Ephesus, is a highly influential city, spiritually and financially, and it is common for people to be more concerned about spiritual and financial actions that will aid their life (i.e. prayer, charity, meditation, investments, etc.) than who Jesus is. However, we hope as you read Ephesians you will be both informed and transformed by the great work of what was accomplished at the cross.

## Below is an outline of our schedule for spring 2007:

January 17, 2007	Ephesians 1:1-6 "All That God Has Done"
January 24, 2007	Ephesians 1:7-14 "All That We Get"
January 31, 2007	Ephesians 1:15-23 "Our Response To Him"
February 7, 2007	Ephesians 2:1-10 "But God"
February 14, 2007 (V-DAY)	<b>Valentines Banquet</b>
February 21, 2007	Ephesians 2:11-22 "Reflecting On The Cross"
February 28, 2007	<b>Block Party</b>
March 7, 2007	Ephesians 3:1-13 "Motives For Ministry"
March 14, 2007	<b>Spring Break</b>
March 21, 2007	Ephesians 3:14-21 "Motives For Prayer"
March 28, 2007	<b>REZ WEEK</b>
April 4, 2007	Ephesians 4:7-16 "Ministry Roles"
April 11, 2007	Ephesians 4:17-24 "Spiritual Victory"
April 18, 2007	Ephesians 5:1-14 "Avoiding Darkness"
April 25, 2007	Ephesians 5:22-33 "Roles of Marriage"
May 2, 2007	Ephesians 6:10-20 "The Battle Field"
May 9, 2007 (DEAD)	<b>405 Celebration</b>

## **How do you know when you are *winning* as a small group leader?**

### **Spiritually Vibrant:**

In a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

First, for each of our leaders to have an eternal influence at the University of Texas we must be in a vibrant growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We would measure this by asking:

- Am I learning from God's word?
- Am I involved in prayer?
- Am I serving within the local church?
- Am I sharing the Gospel?

### **Relationally Connected:**

Connect with students outside of the 405.

Second, for each of our leaders to have an eternal influence at the University of Texas we must be connecting with students relationally. Calling them to invite them to small group and church each week. Sending them notes of encouragement. Having them over for dinner. We believe to realistically speak truth into their lives we must earn a platform from which to do so. This platform is earned by spending time with our students outside of small group. We refer to this as incarnational ministry and it is modeled for us by Jesus throughout the gospels.

### **Authentic Leadership:**

Speak openly and honestly about your spiritual life.

Third, for each of our leaders to have an eternal influence at the University of Texas we must lead open and honest lives amongst our students. We must interact with Scripture in a realistic manner, not feel threatened by questions, share strengths and weaknesses, and trust the Holy Spirit to speak through us to our students.

### **Intentionally Shepherding:**

Developing a spiritual growth plan for each student.

Fourth, for each of our leaders to have an eternal influence at the University of Texas we must be intentionally shepherding. Once we have earned the platform to speak truth into their life we must be intentional to develop a spiritual growth plan for them. Once we have established a growth plan we can maximize every phone call, every note, every dinner, every conversation to spiritually guide our students in a growing and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

## **Ephesians 1:1-6 “All That God Has Done”**

### **Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)**

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Reconnecting with your students and explain the purpose of small group and our church. *(You will likely have new members! So be sure to give us their information so we can follow up.)*
2. **Book:** Introduce the book of Ephesians and examine 1:1-6. In light of all that God is and all that He has done, explore how we should respond.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** Challenge them to consider our spring challenge to share the gospel 3 times. *(The 4 Spiritual Discussion questions are available on our website to download at their convenience.)*

### **Hook: (10 Minutes)**

Take some time to connect with your students. Ask about their week, what they did over the break, what stands out in their life, and help them to connect with one another.

### **Book: (5 Minutes)**

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 1:1-6. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### **Look: (35 Minutes)**

1. What do we know about Paul in scripture?
2. What do we know about the Ephesian church in scripture?
3. What does it mean to be “holy” and “blameless”?
4. What does it mean to be “predestined”?
5. When did God predestine us and what motivated Him to do so?
6. What is the significance of adoption in verse 5? What does that mean for us?
7. In your own words how would you summarize 1:1-6?
8. Do Christians normally live every day as though 1:1-6 is true?

### **Took: (10 Minutes)**

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 1:7-14 “All That We Have”

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Reconnecting with your students and explain the purpose of small group and our church. *(You will likely have new members! So be sure to give us their information so we can follow up.)*
2. **Book:** Recap last week in one sentence and examine 1:7-14 as Paul describes experiencing all that we have in Jesus Christ.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** Challenge them to consider our spring challenge to share the gospel 3 times. *(The 4 Spiritual Discussion questions are available on our website to download at their convenience.)*

### Hook: (10 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 1:7-14. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (35 Minutes)

1. What is the meaning of the word “redemption” in verse 7?
2. What is the relationship between “our redemption” and “His blood” in verse 7?
3. Why does Paul connect God’s grace to the forgiveness of our trespasses in verse 7?
4. Throughout verses 7-14 why do we see Paul repeating words “through” and “in Him”? How are words like “inheritance” and “sealed” understood?
5. How do the blessings of 7-14 affect how we live our daily lives?
6. Some in our culture would conclude we praise God as He blesses, however, from 7-14 it seems a life will erupt in praise when a person comes to the fullest expression of Jesus. What does it mean to know the fullest expression of Jesus?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 1:15-23 “Our Response To Him”

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share a personal story about how prayer influences your spiritual life. (*You will likely have new members! So be sure to give us their information so we can follow up.*)
2. **Book:** Recap last week in one sentence and examine 1:15-23 as Paul pleads for God to move through prayer.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** In Ch. 1 Paul has praised God for who He is and now responds to Him in prayer. Challenge the students to consider writing down their prayers to keep track of how God responds in their spiritual lives.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 1:15-23. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. Paul begins verse 15 by saying “For this reason”. What reason is he referring to? What causes him to give ceaseless thanks?
2. What is the content of Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians?
3. How is Paul able to praise God for His sovereignty in 1:1-14 and in 1:15-23 pray for God to meet his needs? If God is sovereign what is the purpose of prayer on the part of His people?
4. What effects can your prayers have on the lives of others (2 Cor. 1:8-11 / James 5:14-18)?
5. Are you currently praying for others? If so, how do you keep track of what you pray for and how God responds?
6. Likely there are areas of our life that are not under subjection to Jesus, however, 20-23 shows us that Jesus is exalted right now. What stops us from giving those things to Jesus? How often might this need to take place?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 2:1-10 “But God”

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** This may be a little morbid but begin by making observations about a dead body. Can't move, can't eat, ride a bike, etc. Remember “Weekend at Bernies”? Keep it light but help them to make observations.
2. **Book:** Ask a student to recap last week and examine 2:1-10 as Paul exalts God. Paul recognizes our spiritual condition and until God shows up we are spiritually dead.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 2:1-10 ends with a response to God. Challenge your students to consider if they are responding or are they still lying in a coffin?

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 2:1-10. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. What does Paul mean by “dead” in verse 1? (Gen. 2:17, Is. 59:2, Rom. 5:12, Luke 9:60, 1 Tim. 5:6)
2. What does Paul mean by “child of wrath” in verse 3? How would you describe a human's condition without Jesus?
3. What takes place between verses 3 and 4 that gives all of creation hope? From verse 4, what motivates God to enter the equation? How is that conclusion different than that of our culture?
4. From verse 5 Paul teaches when we were spiritually dead God made us alive in Christ. How does a person become “alive in Christ”?
5. Verses 1-8 have focused entirely on what God has done. Yet, it is proper for God's people to respond to Him, which is the essence of worship. How do we balance our response while maintaining our salvation is of the Lord? Why does Paul refer to us as “His workmanship”?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 2:11-22 “Reflecting On The Cross”

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Begin by sharing a story of recent spiritual growth in your life, personally, remembering what God has done to draw you closer to Him.
2. **Book:** Ask a student to recap last week and examine 2:11-22 as Paul reminds the reader to reflect and remember what we have been given through Jesus’ work on the cross.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 2:11-22 Paul reminds his readers to remember what they have been given through Christ’s work on the cross. End your time as a group by sharing 2-3 word prayers of thanks about what we have been given through the cross.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 2:11-22. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. In verses 11 and 12 Paul begins by calling the reader to “remember” at one time you were separated from Christ. Although it is important for us to look forward to Christ’s return why is it also important to occasionally ponder the past?
2. What is the “dividing wall” at the end of verse 14? Did God intend for it to be such a source of hostility? (Ex. 19:5-6)
3. How is it possible for Christians to create a dividing wall today?
4. In verse 20 Paul begins to describe a new foundation. We who are Christians are stones that make a holy temple in this “new foundation”, and we do not need to go to a special temple to be in God’s presence. How does that take place practically today?
5. Paul claims through Jesus we have peace, access to the Father, and are of God’s household. By the end of the passage what has he reduced the spiritual life to? How does this tie into the “remembering” he has called us to at the beginning of the passage?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 3:1-13 “Motives For Ministry”

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Begin by sharing what you love about the local church and how it shapes your spiritual life.
2. **Book:** As a group come up with a 3-5 word statement for Ch. 1, as well as Ch. 2. Do this quickly and don't feel you can't change it later on. Have the group write it down. Then, examine 3:1-13 as Paul reminds us of what has changed his life and why he lives the life that he lives.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 3:1-13 Paul pauses to reflect on his motives and methods for ministry. Challenge your students to find not just a place to serve but the place God has designed them to serve.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 3:1-13. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. Why does Paul refer to himself as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus” in verse 1?
2. When Scripture speaks of a mystery, it does not mean something that is unknown but rather something that was presently unknown that has now been revealed (Eph. 1:9, 3:3, 3:4, 3:9, 5:32, 6:19). What is the “mystery” Paul is referring to?
3. Paul first wrote that he was the “least of the apostles” (1 Cor. 15:9). He then wrote that he was even worse and “least of all of God's people” (Eph. 3:8). And, later wrote that he was “chief of sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). How was Paul able to refer to himself as “prisoner of Christ” and “chief of sinners”?
4. In verse 10 Paul captures the beauty of the local church (a people who would otherwise be divided enemies unite as a loving family). How is the wisdom of God made known through the church?
5. Paul's attitude toward suffering was in light of all that he had been given through Jesus. Imprisonment, beatings, sacrifice, suffering; it all paled in comparison. How did Paul have that mindset? Was he just special? Could we have that mindset? From the passage what was Paul's motivation?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## **Ephesians 3:14-21 “Motives For Prayer”**

### **Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)**

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share a specific story that has helped improve your prayer life. If it was an external change be sure you emphasize the internal motivation for this change.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements and make any changes necessary. Then, examine 3:14-21 as Paul captures the motivation for his prayer life.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 3:14-21 Paul reveals his need to respond in prayer. Challenge the students to examine their spiritual life in the area of prayer and what steps would need to be taken for it to improve.

### **Hook: (5 Minutes)**

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### **Book: (5 Minutes)**

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 3:14-21. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### **Look: (40 Minutes)**

1. What is the “reason” Paul is referring to in verse 14?
2. What are the similarities and differences between this prayer (3:14-19) and (1:15-23)?
3. What do we learn about the character of God in this passage?
4. In Ephesians a pattern has developed in which Paul first speaks about who God has revealed Himself to be, then the need to respond in prayer, worship, and lastly to live a life of good works that are a by-product, which naturally flow from intimacy with God. What can we apply to our spiritual lives from this pattern?
5. In verse 20 Paul uses the word “immeasurably more” which is a double compound word meaning super-superabundantly (used here and in 1 Thess. 3:10 and 5:13 only). What power source do we have and how does it shape our spiritual life?
6. In response to what Jesus has done in Paul’s past and what Jesus will do in Paul’s future Paul is moved to pray in the present? If we better understood our spiritual past and spiritual future would it shape our present?

### **Took: (10 Minutes)**

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 4:7-16 “Ministry Roles”

*\* We intentionally skipped 4:1-6 due to the amount of material*

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share with the group the specific way you feel God has equipped you to be involved within the local church and how that has shaped your spiritual life.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements. Remember to keep them to 3-5 words. Then, examine 4:7-16 as Paul describes the role of the believing within the body of Christ.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 4:7-16 Paul reveals the importance of each person within the body knowing their gifting and serving in the area God has designed them for. Take some time as a group to share how each one is gifted. If someone is unaware, make yourself available to help them discover.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 4:7-16. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. Why does Paul include a parenthetical statement in verses 9-10? Why do these verses strengthen his argument?
2. What does Paul mean when he says Jesus “descended into the lower parts of the earth?” (Phil. 2:5-11)
3. According to 4:12-16 what is the ultimate purpose in the giving of these gifts? What would it look like, practically speaking, if all in the church used their gifts?
4. If each believer functioned within their gifting how would the church exhibit the following characteristics:
  - a. Theology (v. 14)
  - b. Truth (v. 15)
  - c. Spiritual Growth (v. 16)

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 4:17-24 “Spiritual Victory”

*\* We will be skipping 4:25-32. Please include verses if needed.*

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we are looking to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share with the group how your attitude toward sin has changed over the years and how that has shaped your spiritual life.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements. Remember to keep them to 3-5 words. Then, examine 4:17-24 as Paul describes the hope we have as a new creation in Jesus.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 4:17-24 Paul reveals the importance of falling in love with Jesus and instead of having a list of sins to avoid he encourages us to be in awe of the One who overcomes all sin and reigns in victory. Encourage everyone in the group to examine their attitude toward sin and their relationship with Jesus.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 4:17-22. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. In verses 17-18 Paul calls the believer to live differently. To no longer walk as those who are darkened in their understanding, ignorant of God, and hard hearts. What are the external differences between someone who has met Jesus and someone who hasn't? How is this more than just behavioral modification?
2. From the passage how would you describe Paul's attitude toward sin? Is it similar or different than how you might characterize your sin?
3. Often times in the Christian life we can have a passive attitude toward sin. We struggle with sin as though there is still a fight, however, Paul's attitude is one of victory, new creation, and dead to sin. What allows Paul to have this attitude? Can we have this same attitude? (See Rom. 6:1-4)
4. Some might see the goal of the Christian life as sinning less, however, the goal of the Christian life is not simply to get away from sin, but rather draw near to our God, Jesus Christ. Since Jesus and sin do not dwell together getting away from sin is a secondary result in the life of those who draw near to Jesus. Therefore, in verse 24 when Paul calls us to “put on the new self” how does this happen practically?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 5:1-14 “Avoiding Darkness”

*\* We intentionally skipped 4:1-6 due to the amount of material*

## **Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)**

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share with the group how sin has influenced your spiritual life, relationship with others, and connection to the local church. Keep the focus on sin creating division and moving you away from God not on what you necessarily did.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements. Identify a 2-3 word statement for Ch. 4. Then, examine 5:1-14 as Paul describes how sin negatively influences your spiritual life.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 5:1-14 Paul identifies specific sins and how they lead us away from the light and toward darkness; darkness in our relationship with God, others, and the local church. Help the group to see sin will produce fruit. It may not always be immediate but it will come.

## **Hook: (5 Minutes)**

We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

## **Book: (5 Minutes)**

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 5:1-14. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

## **Look: (40 Minutes)**

1. How does verse 1 relate to Ch. 4?
2. God saves us through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for our sins (Ephesians 2:8-9), so that we can live a life of good works (Ephesians 2:10). However, it is sin in our lives that separates us from God, each other, and the kind of life God has intended for us as His people. Though not exhaustive, how does Paul's list of sins create division between God and others?
3. What is the "inheritance" in verse 5? How is it different than eternal life? Can a person who might be described as verse 5 have eternal life? What is their motive for righteous living?
4. In verse 10 Paul calls us to "learn what is pleasing to the Lord". How does this happen?
5. Why does Paul use the analogy of light vs. darkness to contrast new life vs. old life? How does it influence our spiritual life when we neglect Jesus, ignore sin, and are passive toward the local church?

## **Took: (10 Minutes)**

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 5:22-33 “Roles of Marriage”

*\* We intentionally skipped 5:15-21 due to the amount of material*

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we are looking to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share with your group about your marriage and how it has shaped your spiritual life. Resist the temptation to share vague, broad themes like “knowing God’s love” (although true) but instead share something specific and meaningful.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements. Remember to keep them to 3-5 words. Then, examine 5:23-33 as Paul describes the roles of marriage.
3. **Look:** Use the questions as a guide but lead the students to interact with Scripture and find their own questions.
4. **Took:** 5:23-33 Paul provides insight into the roles of marriage. It will be easy for our students to see this as something that is far away, however, help them to see that marriage is something they can begin to prepare for now.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 5:23-33. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group to make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. What are some common thoughts that people in our culture have toward submission in verse 22?
2. Looking back at verse 21 how does “fear of Christ” help us to understand and apply submission?
3. What reason does Paul give for the wife to be submissive to her husband? Does this mean she is less important or valuable in God’s eyes?
4. What is Paul’s primary command toward husbands?
5. In 5:31 Paul quotes Genesis 2:24. Why is that? How does it fit into this passage?
6. Why does Paul include this passage within Ephesians? Why is marriage important to God? The local church? The family? If most of us are going to be married at some point in our life how can we use these years to prepare for marriage?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.

## Ephesians 6:10-20 “The Battle Field”

*\* We intentionally skipped 6:1-9 due to the amount of material*

### Leader Objective: (60 Minutes Total)

During this session we want to accomplish 4 objectives:

1. **Hook:** Share with your group about a specific moment in your spiritual journey when you were unusually strong in the Lord.
2. **Book:** Review your chapter statements. Identify a 3-5 word statement for Ch. 6. Then, examine 6:10-20 as Paul describes the spiritual battle that we are in every day.
3. **Look:** Examine the text through the questions provided.
4. **Took:** 6:22-33 Paul describes the importance of preparing for battle. Challenge your students to prepare for the summer. Prepare for strengths, weaknesses, challenges, etc. so they can, as Paul challenged us, make the most of every opportunity.

### Hook: (5 Minutes)

Take some time to connect with your students. We have new visitors each week so be sure to take time to introduce them, explain the purpose of our small groups, and get their information.

### Book: (5 Minutes)

As the leader, take a couple of minutes to introduce the theme of Ephesians 6:10-20. Next, begin to read over the first couple of verses and ask the group make general observations on the passage as you go. Take 2-3 verses at a time and use the questions provided to guide the group to examine how we should respond to this passage.

### Look: (40 Minutes)

1. Verse 10 reminds us that we have strength in the Lord. What is this strength for? How do we take advantage of that strength?
2. As we enter the battlefield of life; to fall in love with Jesus, preach His message of redemption, mature to husbands and wives, raise kids, and work we are reminded of the strength and power we have from God. This battle is not only offensive, but also defensive, to be prepared for battle. How can we prepare against the enemy?
3. From what we have learned in Ephesians how do we put this spiritual armor on?
4. If we are in a spiritual battle and the enemy is attacking how important is it for us to stay prepared? To stay connected to Jesus? To stay connected to the local church? To be united? Is it possible if we are disconnected from Jesus and the local church it is why we feel like we are sometimes getting spiritually killed?

### Took: (10 Minutes)

Breakout into accountability groups to encourage one another and challenge one another spiritually.