



Ephesians

A 24 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

By Lisa Hughes

Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig into the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

Scripture Paths Bible Studies are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.

6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming for. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY

Grace to you and peace John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and encourage others to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian, as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work,” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is employing those truths in your life.

As you study this book of the Bible, it is my prayer you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as *the* source of life and godliness, and that you will accept it, not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom and knowledge, overcome sin, and daily grow in godly conduct and love for Christ.

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
Lisa Hughes*

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting, nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further, I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. The easiest way to find the biblical definition is to use one of the many websites devoted to helping people study the Bible. Sites like www.blueletterbible.com and others like it, allow you to type in the Strong's number easily to find the word's definition. I do have a step by step guide for doing a word study the "old fashioned way," using books! If you plan to do your word definitions that way, then be sure to look for the guide I've put together to help you. *These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.*

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig into each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

And what could be better than that?

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalm 119:129-133

How to Do a Chapter Observation¹

Begin with prayer, asking God to show you how His Word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His Word as you approach it. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to see the truths in His Word.

1. Read straight through the chapter using the *Bible Text Handout*. This will show you the flow of the chapter. *Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears.* This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Mark *repeated* words or phrases. Mark any other words that seem *important* to the chapter or are strongly *emphasized*.
2. Next, *list* the phrase containing the key words on a separate sheet of paper. *This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words.* Be sure to *cite* the verse references when you list your key word information. For example, in James chapter 1, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in James. For Chapter 1, it would start with a list like this: Vs. 1—James, a bond-servant of God or God has bond-servants Vs. 5—ask God for wisdom. Vs. 5—God gives wisdom generously, without reproach.
3. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.
4. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
5. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find these words or phrases.
6. Mark *contrasting* words: light/dark, love/hate; the word “but.” Look for phrases or thoughts that are being contrasted.
7. Now list what you discovered from the comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using or at the side or bottom of the *Bible Text Handout*.

¹ This process for Bible study originated from the Precept Inductive Bible Studies method. Through the years, other people have adapted it or come up with similar methods on their own, just as I have for my studies. The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider every one of His recorded Words, in their context, during Bible study.

8. Mark *transition* terms: *therefore, for, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms.
9. Mark expressions of *time*. Look for words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
10. Look for *lists* of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in James 1:5-6 we find a list about how God responds when we ask him for wisdom. We discover 1) He gives wisdom generously; 2) He gives wisdom without reproach; 3) He desires that we ask in faith, without doubting. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in this chapter. You aren't making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this stage is to look for the treasures that God has put in the chapter.

How To Do a Word Study

There's a couple ways you can do this. You can do your Bible word study using the internet or a Bible program like Logos. There are quite a few good Bible study websites available on the internet like www.net.bible.org; www.blueletterbible.org; www.biblestudytools.com; or www.biblegateway.com. Each site is set up a little different but you should find a section on "word studies" for each of them.

Or you can do your Bible word study in the time-honored tradition of using books! Below you'll find a step-by-step guide in how to do a word study from the Bible.

Starting with the basics

You will need an *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Strong's or Holman's] that matches the Bible you study out of – like NASB or KJV. Then you will need *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*.

Now what?

1. In the main part of the Concordance find the word you wish to define. Example: *consider* from Hebrews 3:1.
2. Write down the number assigned to it. You will need this number for the dictionary. In our example *consider* from Hebrews 3:1 is Greek word #2657.
3. Now flip to the back of the Concordance. This section of the concordance is divided into Hebrew words from the Old Testament and Greek words from the New Testament. You will need to make sure you are in the Greek section so you can find #2657. Once you locate the right number then you can see the Greek spelling of the word as well as the English transliteration of the word. You will need to write down the English transliteration of the word [for our example it is *katanoeo*. You will also find a short definition of the word here in the concordance.

2657 κατανοέω [*katanoeo* /kat·an·o·eh·o/] v. From 2596 and 3539; **TDNT** 4:973; **TDNTA** 636; **GK** 2917; 14 occurrences; **AV** translates as "consider" seven times, "behold" four times, "perceive" twice, and "discover" once. 1 to perceive, remark, observe, understand. 2 to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.

4. Now you are ready to look up your word in *Vine's Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Make sure you are in the Greek section if you are looking up New Testament words or the Hebrew section if you are looking up Old Testament words. Go to the back of the dictionary and look up your word using the English transliteration of the word, in our example it is *katanoeo*. This step will show you the different English words the Greek word has been translated into. For example: *katanoeo* has been translated into *behold*, *consider*, *discover*, or *perceive*.

5. Now, look up the English version of the word. In our example we look up *consider*. Find the right definition for the word by checking the English transliteration and the Strong's number assigned to it. Check to make sure that the Greek number is the same and then read away. Remember, that context is what gives a word its meaning and variation of meaning. The dictionary will supply you with all the meanings and translations of the word and how it is used differently in different verses.

CONSIDER [from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words]

1. *eidon* (Aor. of ὀράω, 3708), used as the aorist tense of *horaō*, "to see," is translated "to consider" in [Acts 15:6](#), of the gathering of the apostles and elders regarding the question of circumcision in relation to the gospel.

2. *suneidon* (συνειδῶ, 4894), *sun*, with, and No. 1, used as the aorist tense of *sunoraō*, to see with one view, to be aware, conscious, as the result of mental perception, is translated "considered" in [Acts 12:12](#), of Peter's consideration of the circumstances of his deliverance from. See KNOW, PRIVY.

3. *katamanthano* (καταμανθάνω, 2648), lit., "to learn thoroughly" (*kata*, "down," intensive, *manthano*, "to learn"), hence, "to note accurately, consider well," is used in the Lord's exhortation to "consider" the lilies. [Matt. 6:28](#).¶

4. *noeo* (νοιέω, 3539), "to perceive with the mind" (*nous*), "think about, ponder," is translated "consider," only in Paul's exhortation to Timothy in [2 Tim. 2:7](#). See PERCEIVE, THINK, UNDERSTAND.

5. *katanoeō* (κατανοέω, 2657), "to perceive clearly" (*kata*, intensive, and No. 4), "to understand fully, consider closely," is used of not "considering" thoroughly the beam in one's own eye, [Matt. 7:3](#) and [Luke 6:41](#) (KJV, "perceivest"); of carefully "considering" the ravens, [Luke 12:24](#); the lilies, v. 27; of Peter's full "consideration" of his vision, [Acts 11:6](#); of Abraham's careful "consideration" of his own body, and Sarah's womb, as dead, and yet accepting by faith God's promise, [Rom. 4:19](#) (RV); of "considering" fully the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, [Heb. 3:1](#); of thoughtfully "considering" one another to provoke unto love and good works, [Heb. 10:24](#). It is translated by the verbs "behold," [Acts 7:31-32](#); [Jas. 1:23-24](#); "perceive," [Luke 20:23](#); "discover," [Acts 27:39](#). See BEHOLD, DISCOVER, PERCEIVE.¶

6. *logizomai* (λογίζομαι, 3049) signifies "to take account of," [2 Cor. 10:7](#) (RV, "consider," KJV, "think"), the only place where the RV translates it "consider." See ACCOUNT.

Companion Volumes

Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament. This is arranged by book and moves through the text explaining and defining key words along the way.

Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament. Wuest died before he finished all the New Testament, but what is completed is a treasure for word studies. This is arranged in the same way as Vincent's book is arranged.

Recommended Ephesians Commentaries

If you're interested in digging deeper and gleaning more as you study, then the commentary list below contains works I've used in my study of the book of Ephesians. You might enjoy consulting these works and gaining some extra insights these men have gleaned from their own study in Ephesians. However, the best approach for using commentaries is to first study the passage yourself before consulting any commentaries. Figuring out what the passage says beforehand protects you from being swayed by the comments of others. You're then able to use discernment as you sift through the information.

Colossians, Philemon (NIV Application Commentary) by David E. Garland

Ephesians by John MacArthur

Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary by Harold H. Hoehner

Expository Reflections on the letter to the Ephesians by Leon Morris

New Bible Commentary by D. A. Carson

New Testament Commentary: Galatians and Ephesians by William Hendriksen

Talk Thru the Bible by Wilkinson and Boa

The Believer's Bible Commentary by MacDonald and Farstad

The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck

The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians: The New International Commentary on the New Testament by F. F. Bruce

The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon: The Pillar New Testament Commentary by Douglas J. Moo

The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter to the Ephesians by Peter T. O'Brien

Ephesians

Lesson #1, Introduction

Read through the book of Ephesians two times before you begin answering the questions below.

Using only the text of Ephesians, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to note the Scripture references to show where you found your answer from the Bible. *At this point in the lesson you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible.* You will have an opportunity at the end of this lesson to come back and complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was the book written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What is the general tone of the author in the book?
6. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?

7. What topics are included in this book?

8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.

10. What attributes of God do you see in this book?

11. What attributes of Christ do you find in this book?

Now you can go back and add to your answers above using a Bible dictionary or Bible commentary.

12. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of Ephesians?

13. What's one verse in the book that has caught your attention? How did it encourage or convict you, or make you want to study and think about it more?

Ephesians

Lesson #2, Chapter 1 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, yet can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 1 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the Ephesians Bible Text handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-14).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 15-23).

4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

Just so you know: Ephesians Chapter 1 is notorious!

Notoriously difficult, that is, to identify whether the pronouns, He, Him, or His, refer to God the Father or to Jesus Christ. There are a few within this chapter that will take all your observational skills to identify, and even then, you might still feel unsure of your choice. It appears that Paul bypasses some of the usual grammar rules as he delights in the wonders of God's good plan. Don't give up! Look at Chapter 1 like you would in trying to find a certain puzzle piece. The piece is there, even if you don't see it yet. Keep looking and working on it, and as you seek the Lord, He will give you precious insights into His Word.

7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1. Your chapter 1 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below.

- Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*
- Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*
- Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*

Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and Father

Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.
9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that God is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.*
17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

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

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians

Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-6

Before you begin this lesson, read through Chapter 1, then stop and pray, asking God to help you study diligently so that you can grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1. According to verse 1, what do you learn about the author of this letter?
2. Create a short biographical sketch of Paul from what you know about Paul. Consider what you know about his name, his heritage, his calling, his personality, his physical appearance, and his goals. If you can't think of anything, try reading Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-30; Acts 13-28 which detail Paul's ministry adventures or try skimming through these chapters; Gal. 1:11-2:10; Phil. 3:5-11.
3. Paul says he is an *apostle*. What does that mean? See Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13; Acts 1:21-22; 6:2-4; Rom. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:11.
4. What did God reveal to Paul about God choosing him as an apostle? How did that knowledge affect Paul and why did he include that information in his letter? See Acts 9:15; 26:15-18; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:11-14; 2 Tim. 1:1.
5. What do you learn about those to whom Paul is writing in verse 1?

6. How does the Bible define *saints*? See Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 14:33; Eph. 1:1, 18; 2:19; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18.

7. According to the definition above, are you a *saint*? How do you know?

8. Summarize what you learn about Paul's interactions with the believer's in Ephesus. See Acts 18:19-22; 19:1-41; 20:13-38.

9. The word *faithful* means believing ones. What were the faithful ones believing in Christ for? See Eph. 2:8-9 for a hint.

10. Verse 2 contains Paul's customary greeting. Define the words *grace* [Strong's #5485] and *peace* [Strong's #1515]. Where do these things come from?

11. By giving a blessing of grace and peace to the believers what is Paul trying to convey?

12. In verses 3-14 (which is one sentence in the Greek!) Paul recounts the great works of God for us. He blesses God for the ways God has blessed us. What things has He done for us according to verses 3-6?

13. How many spiritual blessings has God blessed us with (verse 3)? Where are they located? What does that truth convey to you?

14. That He chose us to be His is an example of one of the many spiritual blessings God has given to us as seen in verse 4. When did He choose you?

15. God had a purpose in choosing you. What was it (verse 4)?

16. If God had not chosen you, would you ever be able to stand holy and blameless before Him? What do the following verses teach you about how that was possible: 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 5:27; Phil. 3:9; Titus 2:14?

17. Verse 5 also reveals that God predestined us to adoption as sons. How was that adoption accomplished? Why did God choose to adopt us (verses 4-5; KJV verse 5)?

18. Paul states that God chose us to be His children *to the praise of the glory of His grace*. What does it reveal about why God acted the way He did?

19. How did God extend His grace to us according to verse 6?

20. Look back over verses 3-6. List all the ways that you have contributed to your salvation.
21. What do these verses tell you about why God chose to act the way He did?
22. Complete the following statements as you consider what you have learned from Ephesians 1:1-6:
- a. God is _____.
 - b. God is _____.
 - c. I am _____.
 - d. I can praise God for _____.
 - e. I am amazed to think about _____.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing¹

~Charles Wesley

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

¹Charles Wesley, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," *Hymns for the Family of God*. Ed. Fred Bock. (Nashville: Paragon Associates, Inc., 1976).

Ephesians

Lesson #4, Chapter 1:7-14

Before you begin this lesson, ask God to help you study with an eager heart to learn and apply His word.

1. Review last week's lesson by listing how God has blessed us from verses 1-6.
2. In verse 6 Paul ends his thought by talking about the grace God has given us in the Beloved, who is Jesus Christ. What do we have *in Him* (in Christ) according to verse 7?
3. Define *redemption* (Strong's #629).
4. How was that redemption accomplished according to verse 7?
5. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about redemption from the Scriptures: Matt. 20:28; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12; 1 Pet: 1:18-19.
6. One result of redemption is found in verse 7. What is it?

7. What part did God's grace play in our redemption? Why are we so dependent upon God's grace? Define *grace* [Strong's #5485] before you answer this question.

8. Paul says the grace we receive is *according to* rather than *out of* God's grace in verse 7. Explain the difference between those two phrases as you consider God's grace. Reading the story of the poor widow in Mark 12:41-44 will help with this answer.

9. Paul says that God lavished His grace upon us. Define *lavished* (KJV abounded [Strong's #4052]). What does Paul want us to understand about God?

Note: Because this section is one great, exuberant sentence in the Greek, the translators have done their best translating it into English. However, there are slight variations within each of the Bible translations which affect how we read and understand this passage. For example, the ESV, NKJV, and NIV link verse 8 to the contents of verse 7, while the NASB has *wisdom* and *insight* connected to the contents of verse 9. These translation differences may change the nuances of understanding, but it doesn't change the overall meaning of the verse. For example, in verses 7-8, did God lavish His grace upon us, or did He lavish His grace upon us in all wisdom and insight? There is a difference in the Bible versions, but the key elements of the verse remain the same. If helpful, we will note those distinctions, though we will follow the NASB rendering of the verses for this study.

10. What is the mystery to which Paul alludes in verse 9? See also Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 3:3-6, 9, 11-12; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27.

11. As we move into verse 10, we can read the verse with the understanding that God made known to us His will concerning Christ, and that there is coming a day when all things will be completed, fulfilled and summed up in Christ—things in the heavens and things

in the earth. Look up 1 Cor. 15:20-28 and Phil. 2:10-11 to see how that will be accomplished.

12. Verse 11 reveals that in Christ we have received an inheritance. What is our inheritance? Matt. 19:29; Col. 1:12; Heb. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:4-5.

13. Why do we receive an inheritance according to verses 11-12?

14. Read Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:5, 11 then complete the following sentence: God predestined me so that _____.

15. Define *predestined* [Strong's #4309].

My husband, Jack, explains predestination like this: Predestination, election, foreknowledge, calling, and choosing do not mean that God looks into the future and sees who will receive the gospel and be saved, then in response, chooses them to be predestined on the basis of what He knows they are going to do. *This makes man sovereign over God's plan of salvation.* It contradicts the meaning of the words *predestination* and *election*. The Bible nowhere speaks of God choosing us in response to our faith, but that our response of faith is conditional upon His choosing us.

16. What can you observe about those who *hope in Christ* from verse 12?

17. Explain what it means to live *to the praise of His glory* (verse 12)?

18. Think of it! As a believer, how you live your life can bring praise and glory to God, or it can bring shame and dishonor to His name. Choose one area in your life this week that you would like to work on so that it will bring praise and glory to God. Put away those things that could bring shame and dishonor to His name.

19. How is the message of truth described in verse 13?

20. What is our response to be to the message of truth, and what happens to us as a result according to verses 13-14?

21. What does it mean to be *sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit*? See Eph. 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19.

22. Define *pledge* (KJV *earnest*; NIV *deposit* [Strong's #728]). See also 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:1, 4-5.

23. What amazing truth is revealed in verse 14 that will bring praise and glory to God?

24. We have learned so much, and yet we have only skimmed the surface of these truths. Let's pull together what we have learned from verses 7-14 by completing the following statements:
- a. God has done incredible things for me. He has _____.

 - b. In Christ, I have _____.

 - c. Even the Holy Spirit has been _____.

 - d. Thank you, Lord, for _____.

 - e. These truths cause me _____.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.
~Henry F. Lyte¹

¹Lyte, Henry F., "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven." *Hymns for the Family of God*. Ed. Fred Bock. (Nashville: Paragon Associates, Inc. 1976).

Ephesians

Lesson #5, Chapter 1:15-23

Have you asked God for a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him as you study this lesson?

Fun Fact: Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence in the Greek and so is Ephesians 1:15-23!

1. In verse 15 Paul says, *For this reason I too* (NKJV *Therefore I also*). What thoughts from the previous verses is he now connecting in verse 15?

2. What has Paul heard about the Ephesian believers (verse 15)?

3. What kind of faith did these believers have? See verse 15. How was that faith lived out (verse 15)?
 - a. For a more detailed example of what Paul means read 1 Thess. 1:3, 6-10; 2:13. What do you learn about a faith and love that is so distinct that other people talk about it?

4. All true believers have faith in Christ and love for others. What do you think makes the Ephesian and Thessalonian believers stand out among all the rest? What makes the difference? Is that difference discernible in your life?

“Think oft of heaven, and what a thing a saint will be in glory, when he shall shine as the stars, and be equal to the angels, and then you will quickly see cause to love them.” ~Richard Baxter¹

5. What did Paul do when he heard about their faith and love (verse 16)? Is that your first response when you hear about other believer’s exemplary walks? Why do you think it is so easy to forget to do this? Take some time right now and follow Paul’s example of thinking well of someone whose faith and love you have heard about.

6. How does Paul pray for the Ephesian believers in verse 17?

Note: “Though the NIV translators interpret “Spirit” (pneuma) as referring to the Holy Spirit, it is better to see it as disposition or attitude because of the two genitives following it (“of wisdom and [of] revelation”; cf. “a gentle spirit” in 1 Cor. 4:21).”²

7. In verses 3-14 Paul reveals God’s attributes and acts in regard to His children. With that as the backdrop to verse 17, why would Paul pray that the believers have wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God? Prov. 2:5; Jer. 9:24; Matt. 11:27; Col. 1:9-10; and 2:2-3 help explain this idea.

8. Next Paul prays that *the eyes of your heart may be enlightened* (KJV *the eyes of your understanding*). Define *enlightened* [Strong’s #5461]. Why would having a heart that sees be so important?

9. Paul prays that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened, so that you will know three things. What are they (verses 18-19)?

¹Richard Baxter, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, Ed. I. D. E. Thomas, (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1989), 177.

²John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985).

10. Paul wants us to know the hope that comes with God's calling us to be His own. Define *hope* [Strong's #1680]. Now list what you learn from the following verses about our hope: Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:5; Eph. 1:18; 2:12; Col. 1:5; 1 Thess. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:1-3.

11. Verse 18 reveals an amazing fact: God has an inheritance and guess what? It is you! Read Titus 2:11-14 and 1 Pet. 2:9-10 to see how you are a glorious inheritance to God. Record what you find.
 - a. This idea of being God's inheritance is not new. Read Deut. 32:9; Ps. 33:12; and 94:14. What did you learn?

12. What observations can you make about God's power from verse 19 when it says *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe?*

13. Define *surpassing* (KJV *exceeding*; NIV *incomparably* [Strong's #5235]) and *power* [Strong's #1411].

14. God's power is *toward you*, it is directed at you. Record what you learn from the following verses about just a few of the ways that God directs His power toward you: Job 42:2; Ps. 28:7-8; Is. 40:28-31; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Cor. 1:18; 6:14; 2 Cor. 9:8; 13:4; Col. 1:11; and 2 Pet. 1:2-3.

- a. If you would like to meditate more on this subject read Ps. 139:1-24. Try listing all the examples of God's power and might and how He directs His power toward you in this Psalm.

15. Why would the three things Paul prays for the Ephesians be so crucial for us to really know, understand, and comprehend? How do you think a deeper understanding of these truths would/should affect your life?

16. Paul prayed that we would know of the hope, riches, and power we have from God. What else do you learn about the 3 things Paul wants us to know from the rest of verse 19 and verses 20-21?

17. Define *working* [Strong's #1753], *strength* (KJV and NIV *mighty* [Strong's #2479]) and *might* (KJV *power*; NIV *strength* [Strong's #2904]).

18. How does this example of God's power from verse 20 show that God is able to answer Paul's prayer? How do these truths about God encourage your prayer life?

19. In verses 20-23 Paul enthusiastically recounts the exaltation of Christ. Explain what it means for Christ to be seated at the right hand of God. See Acts 5:30-31; Heb. 1:3, 13; 1 Pet. 3:21-22.

20. What is the significance of Christ being seated in the heavens far above all things and to have all things put into subjection under Him as stated in verses 21-23?

21. What do you learn about the Church in verses 22-23? See also Eph. 5:23-32 and Col. 1:18.

22. It's difficult to comprehend or fully appreciate the exaltation of Christ, yet Phil. 2:5-11 makes Christ's exaltation personal. Why is He to be lifted up?

23. Summarize what *you* learned from this week's lesson and how you intend to apply it to your life this week.

“Our love to Him should begin on earth, as it shall be in heaven; for the bride doesn't take as much delight in her wedding dress as she does in her bridegroom; so we, in the life to come, although clothed with glory as with a robe, shall not be so much affected with the glory that goes about us, as with the Bridegroom's joyful face and presence.”

~Samuel Rutherford³

³Samuel Rutherford, *The Loveliness of Christ*. Ed. Ellen S. Lister (Moscow, Idaho: Reprinted by Community Christian Ministries).

Ephesians

Lesson #6, Chapter 2 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, which can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 2 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-10).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 11-22).
4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time *God* is mentioned as you did in Ephesians Chapter 1. Your Chapter 2 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below from Ephesians Chapter 1.

- Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*
- Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*
- Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*
- Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and *Father*
- Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.

9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.

10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.

11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you've been using.

12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from Ephesians 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that God is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing*. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.
17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 2

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

17 And 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 our access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians

Lesson #7, Chapter 2:1-3

Before you begin ask God for wisdom and discernment as you study His Word.

1. Paul begins Chapter 2 with an all-important fact. What is it (verse 1)?
2. Notice that verse 1 begins with *and*. What previous thoughts in Chapter 1 are being connected to Chapter 2?
3. Explain what it means to be *dead* [Strong's #3498]. Is Paul talking about spiritual or physical death in verse 1?

Note: the NKJV includes the phrase *He made alive* in verse 1. This is because verse 5 contains the main verb for the phrase Paul begins in verse 1. The translators of the NKJV included it in verse 1 to join the verb with its subject so that it reads: You – whom He made alive – were dead in your trespasses and sins.

4. Notice that verse 1 says that we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Define the words *trespasses* [Strong's #3900] and *sins* [Strong's #266].
5. What are the results of being spiritually dead in sin? See Jn. 5:21, 24-25; Rom. 3:10-11, 23; 5:12-21.

6. According to verses 1 and 2 how did you *walk*?

7. Explain what it means to walk according to the *course of this world* (NIV *when you followed the ways of this world*). See verse 2; 4:17; 1 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 1:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

8. Not only were we the walking dead, completely cut off from God, but we see that Satan also plays a role. What is it? See verse 2; Matt. 13:19; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:26.

9. What do you notice about the use of pronouns in verses 1-3 and how Paul uses them to convey important spiritual truths?

10. How does Paul say we have all lived? See verse 3.

11. Explain what it means to live in the lusts of our flesh after you have looked up the following verses. See Rom. 1:24; 13:14; Eph. 4:22; Titus 3:3; James 1:14-15; 1 Pet. 1:14; 2:11; 4:2-3; and 1 Jn. 2:16.

12. Verse 3 records that not only were we living in the lusts of our flesh but we were also continually *indulging* (NIV *gratifying*; KJV *fulfilling* [Strong's #4160]) the desires of our flesh and mind. What picture is being painted here about the walking dead?

13. Not only were we spiritually dead, following the world, living in the lusts of our flesh as we continually indulged ourselves, we were also *by nature children of wrath*. What does that phrase mean? See also Jn. 3:36; Rom. 5:12-14.
14. Based upon what you have learned so far complete the following sentences:
- a. All men are _____.
 - b. Sin is _____.
 - c. I walked _____.
 - d. I lived _____.
 - e. My nature is _____.
15. Summarize what you learn from the following verses about man, his sin, and his attitude toward God: Gen. 8:21; Jn. 3:19-21; Rom. 1:28-32; 8:6-8; Eph. 4:17-19; Titus 1:15-16.
16. It is important to understand that verses 1-3 paint an accurate picture of every person to walk this earth with the exception of Jesus Christ. All men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). It is vitally important that you come to grips with this truth for without this understanding you can never appreciate the huge gulf that separates us from God and the enormity of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. And if you cannot and will not see that you are a sinner, with no hope of salvation except by His grace, then you cannot be saved. In the form of a prayer, explain how verses 1-3 are an accurate representation of you.

17. There is a word we have not looked at yet, but this one word communicates hope. It is *formerly*. What things were *formerly* true of you from verses 1-3?

18. What does that word *formerly* teach you about your life now that you are no longer one of the walking dead? See also 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:24-25; Col. 3:5-11; and Titus 2:11-14.

19. You might be thinking, "*Formerly?* Ha! I am still battling these things. They are still too much a part of my life. I wish I could say they were *formerly* true of me, but I can't." What do the following Scriptures teach us about turning away from sin and growing in Christ? See Rom. 8:1; Eph. 4:17-24; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Col. 2:6-7; Heb. 13:20-21; 2 Pet. 1:2-11; 1 Jn. 1:9.

20. Or you might be thinking, "*Formerly?* Ha! Those things aren't *formerly* true of me, I am still walking in my sins and indulging the desires of my flesh and mind. None of the things we studied in Chapter 1 are true of me. What hope is there for me? I am still a child of wrath." Record what you learn from the following verses: Acts 17:30-31; 26:18; Rom. 5:8; 6:23; 10:9, 13.

“What is it that God sees in man’s heart?

God sees in man’s heart a great deal more than we think of. God sees, and has seen in our hearts, lust, and blasphemy, and murder, and adultery, and malice, and wrath, and all uncharitableness. The heart never can be painted too black, unless you daub it with something blacker than the devil himself. It is as base as it can be. You have never committed murder, but yet you have had murder in your heart; you may never have stained your hands with lusts and the aspersions of uncleanness, but still it is in the heart.

Have you never imagined an evil thing?

Has your soul never for a moment doted on a pleasure which you were too chaste to indulge in, but which for a moment you surveyed with at least some little complacency and delight? Has not imagination often pictured, even to the solitary monk in his cell, greater vice than men in public life have ever dreamed of? And may not even the divine in his closet be conscious that blasphemies, and murders, and lust of the vilest class, can find a ready harbor even in the heart which he hopes is dedicated to God? Oh! Beloved, it is a sight that no human eye could endure: the sight of a heart really laid bare before one’s own inspection would startle us almost into insanity: but God sees the heart in all its bestial sensuousness, in all its wanderings and rebellions, in all its high-mindedness and pride; God has searched and knows it all together.”¹

¹Charles Spurgeon, *Spurgeon’s Sermons, Vol. 4*, pgs. 171-172.

Ephesians

Lesson #8, Chapter 2:4-10

Ask God to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him as you study this lesson.

1. What was our plight according to verses 1-3?
2. Verse 4 introduces hope into that desperate situation in which we lived. What changes our situation and why according to verse 4?
3. How are God's mercy and love described in verse 4?
4. Define *mercy* [Strong's #1656].
5. Why did God need to extend mercy to us? Review verse 3; Jn. 3:18; Rom. 3:23; 5:12.
6. When did God love you (verse 5)? What does the Bible say about how a person responds to God when they are in that state? See Rom. 1:30; 3:10-18; 5:6-10.

It may be that through this lesson you have come to realize that you have placed your hope for salvation in your good deeds, in your own ability to please God, but now you realize that without Jesus Christ you have no hope of pleasing God. Call on God now for salvation. Repent of your sins, turn away from them and turn to Jesus, the only One who can save you. Salvation is a gift of God. Receive it today.

20. Verse 10 says that we are His *workmanship*, that we were *created in Christ Jesus*. Define *workmanship* [Strong's #4161]. Also consider 2 Cor. 5:17 and Eph. 4:24 in your definition.

21. What is your purpose (verse 10)? See also Ps. 102:18 and Is. 43:7.

22. Explain what it means to *walk* in good works.

23. Now take a look at what the Bible says about a believer's good works. What do you learn? See Matt. 5:16; Col. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:21; 3:16-17; Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14; Heb. 10:24; 1 Pet. 2:12.

24. Are you *walking* in your good works as described in verse 10? What attitudes or actions do you need to put on or put off so that you can live the life you were created to live?

“We are not justified by doing good works, but being justified we then do good.” ~William Jenkyn²

“Salvation is the gift of God: that is to say completely so, in opposition to the notion of growth. Salvation is not a natural production from within: it is brought from a foreign zone, and planted within the heart by heavenly hands. Salvation is in its entirety a gift from God. If thou wilt have it, there it is, complete. Wilt thou have it as a perfect gift, “No; I will produce it in my own workshop.” Thou canst not forge a work so rare and costly, upon which even Jesus spent his life’s blood. Here is a garment without seam, woven from the top throughout. It will cover thee and make thee glorious. Wilt thou have it? “No; I will sit at the loom, and I will weave a raiment of my own!” Proud fool that thou art! Thou spinnest cobwebs. Thou weavest a dream. Oh! that thou wouldst freely take what Christ upon the cross declared to be finished.” ~Charles Spurgeon³

²William Jenkyn, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. (The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989), 127.

³C. H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 61* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons. Albany, OR: Ages Software.

Ephesians

Lesson #9, Chapter 2:11-22

Read all of Chapter 2 before beginning today's lesson. Ask God to embed these truths into your heart.

1. Briefly summarize the contents of verses 1-10.

2. Based on all the truths of verses 1-10, what are you supposed to remember (verses 11-12)?

3. Who are the *uncircumcision* and who are the *circumcision*? Where did these names come from? See Gen. 17:10-11; Ex. 12:48; Judges 14:3; 1 Sam. 14:6; Gal. 2:9.
 - a. Why does Paul call one group the *so-called* circumcision? See Rom. 2:17-29; Phil. 3:3.

4. In verses 11-12 Paul explains that the Gentiles had no hope of knowing the One True God, who had revealed Himself to the Jewish nation, but verse 13 explains that a change took place. What happened?

5. How is the blood of Christ able to bring the Gentiles near? See also Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9.

6. What do you learn about Christ and what He did in verses 14-16?

7. Why did the Jews and Gentiles need to know those truths from verses 14-16? Why was this information crucial to the early church?

8. What do the following verses teach you about the unity of the body of Christ and how we are to treat each other? See 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:16-17; Gal. 6:15; Col. 3:10-11.

9. Maintaining the unity of the body of Christ is not a first century concept; it is still to be applied today. When do you find it a challenge to remember that when we are true believers in Christ, we are one body together?

10. Verse 16 reminds us of what needs to happen first before there can ever be true unity of believers. What is it?

11. Define *reconcile* [Strong's #604]. Also look at Col. 1:20, 22 to see how the same Greek word is used.

12. Paul is quoting Is. 57:19 in verse 17. What point is Paul trying to make as he quotes that Old Testament passage? Also look at Rom. 10:12-15 and note how it is similar to Eph. 2:17.

13. Verse 18 tells us because we have received the good news preached to us, we have *access* to God. Define *access* [Strong's #4318].

14. Before you were reconciled to God through Jesus Christ's death on the cross were you able to have access to God? Why? See 2:3.

15. Look up the following verses and explain what you learn about the person who desires to have access to God and the results of being able to have access to God. See Ps. 24:3-6; 42:1-2; 65:3-4; Jn. 14:6; Eph. 3:11-12; Col. 1:21-22; Heb. 10:19-22.

16. Have you thanked God for allowing you to enter into His holy presence through Jesus Christ? Write out a short prayer of thanksgiving for this privilege.

17. Because Christ has reconciled us to God through His blood on the cross, what is true of you? Verse 19.

18. Briefly describe what it is like to be a *stranger* or an *alien* in a foreign land.
 - a. Now describe what is like to no longer be that stranger or alien, but a *citizen* of that land and not only a citizen, but a member of the royal household. See also Phil. 3:20.

19. What is happening to God's household according to verses 19-22?

20. According to verses 21-22 *when* is all this being done?

21. What is the building's purpose (verses 21-22)?

22. How should knowing your purpose as part of the building change your daily life?

23. We've all heard the phrase, "It's not all about you." If ever that statement was true, it is true regarding the Church. Through salvation individuals become one body to give glory to God. What are some specific ways you can apply what you have learned in this lesson the next time you gather together with the Saints for worship?

"For as a kingdom, divided into many shires, and more towns and villages, is called one, because it hath one and the same king, one and the same law; so the church is one, because it lives by one and the same Spirit, and is ruled by one and the same Lord, and professes one and the same faith; has one and the same hope, and has been baptized with one and the same baptism." ~Nehemiah Rogers¹

¹Nehemiah Rogers, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, Ed. I. D. E. Thomas, (The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989), 54.

Ephesians

Lesson #10, Chapter 3 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, which can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-13).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 14-19).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 20-21).

4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time *God* is mentioned as you did in *Ephesians Chapter 1*. Your *Chapter 3* list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below from *Ephesians Chapter 1*.

- Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*
- Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*
- Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*
- Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and *Father*
- Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.

9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.

10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from Ephesians 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that God is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing*. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.
17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 3

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you
Gentiles—

2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for
you;

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of
Christ,

5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now
been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and
fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given
to me according to the working of His power.

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the
unfathomable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been
hidden in God who created all things;

10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to
the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ
Jesus our Lord,

12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians

Lesson #11, Chapter 3:1-7

Remember that you have access to God through Jesus Christ. Come into His presence now in prayer and ask Him to help you as you study.

1. Paul transitions from Chapter 2 into Chapter 3 with the phrase, *For this reason*. What reasons has he already given as he begins Chapter 3?
2. At this point in his life Paul had already been a prisoner of Rome for about 4 years. You may enjoy reading Acts 21:27-28:16 which recounts Paul's remarkable story. List 5 highlights of the action from your reading.
3. Though a prisoner of Rome, Paul calls himself a prisoner of _____. He is even a prisoner with a purpose. What is it (verse 1)? See also Acts 28:20, 27-28; 2 Cor. 4:8-15; 2 Tim. 2:10 which explain his purpose.
4. *Purpose* (to have aim, resolve, intention, function) glorifies the most menial and difficult tasks. Paul knew his purpose and he was able to endure trials with joy. What about you? Do you know what your purpose in life is? Look up the following verses to see *some* of what God's purpose is for you: Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Tim. 4:7; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 2:21; 3:8-9. Record your findings.
5. How does *living with a purpose* change your comings and goings of day to day life?

6. Paul leaves the thought which he began in verse 1 and embarks upon a parenthetical discussion about the Gentiles. In verse 2 Paul begins to explain his ministry to the Gentiles. How does he view his ministry according to verse 2? See also 1 Cor. 9:17 and Col. 1:25.

7. Define *stewardship* (NIV *administration*; KJV *dispensation* [Strong's #3622]).

8. Paul doesn't immediately tell us what the stewardship is that he has received from God, instead he tells us how he learned about his stewardship. See verse 3 and Gal. 1:11-12, 16.

9. What observations can you make about *revelation* that Paul explains here in verses 3-5?

10. Write out a short definition of *revelation* based upon what you have learned from Gal. 1:11-12 and Eph. 3:3-5.

11. Paul says that he gained insight into a mystery contained in the Bible which is the stewardship that has been entrusted to him. What is the mystery that has now been revealed of which Paul is steward? See verse 6.

12. That is one mystery, but there are other mysteries in the Bible. For an interesting rabbit trail, look up the following verses and record what you learn. See Matt. 13:10-11; Rom. 11:25-26; 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 2:6-10; 4:1; 15:51-52; Eph. 3:8-10; 5:28-32; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Rev. 10:6-7.

13. The idea that the Good News would be for all men, not just the Jews is a truth contained in the Old Testament (Is. 49:6; 56:6-7), so what is so earth shaking about what Paul says in verse 6? See also Gal. 3:26-29 and Eph. 2:13-22.

14. What observations can you make about Paul as a *minister* according to verse 7?

15. Verse 7 says that Paul was made a *minister* (NIV *servant*). The word Paul uses is the Greek word *diakonos* [Strong's #1249] from which we derive our word deacon. It literally means to run errands and conveys the idea of being an attendant or servant for others. How was Paul *made* a minister according to verse 7?

16. God may not have called you to a teaching ministry like Paul's, but He has given you at least one spiritual gift to serve in the body of Christ. What do you learn about your gift(s) from the following verses? See Rom. 11:29; 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; Eph. 4:7, 11-13; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.

17. You may feel that you don't have any ability to serve in the body of Christ, but the Scriptures tell us something different. What accompanies the gift (verse 7)? See also 2 Cor. 3:5-6 and 2 Pet. 1:3-4.

18. Again, we gain that same sense of purpose with which we began this lesson. Paul knows that he was called for a purpose. You have been called for a purpose also. What have you learned about your purpose from this lesson?

Ephesians

Lesson #12, Chapter 3:8-13

With a prayerful heart read through Chapter 3 before beginning this lesson.

1. How does Paul identify himself in verse 8?
2. Why does he consider himself this way? See 1 Cor. 15:9 and 1 Tim. 1:12-15.
3. The world and many even within the Church would say that Paul has low self-esteem and needs to be built up. What do you learn about the proper way to view yourself from the following Scriptures? See Prov. 30:2-4; Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 6:3; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
4. Read the following verses to determine what steps you can make to change or guard your thinking, so you see yourself properly, in a way that honors God. See Prov. 25:27; 26:12; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 2:1-9; Phil. 2:5-7; 1 Tim. 6:17.
5. What was the purpose of the grace that was given to Paul (verse 8)?
6. What kind of response does this gift elicit in Paul (verse 8)?

7. What about you? When was the last time you were bowled over by the graciousness of God toward you? Think about God's favor to you and how He has extended privilege and mercy to you. Are you moved to awe and gratitude for what He has done? If not, it may be that you think you deserve the good things He grants you. If you believe that is your attitude, review the verses above and with a repentant heart, ask God to lower your view of yourself and heighten your view of Him.

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. ~A. W. Tozer¹

8. Paul delights that he has the privilege of preaching about Christ to the Gentiles. How are Christ's *riches* described (verse 8)? Also look up Rom. 11:33 where Paul uses the same word for "riches."
- a. What does is meant by the phrase, "the unfathomable riches of Christ [ESV, NKJV, NIV *the unsearchable riches of Christ*]?"
9. Verse 9 reveals the second part of Paul's preaching ministry. What is it?
10. Define *administration* (ESV *plan*; NKJV *fellowship* [Strong's #3622]).
11. What is the *mystery* that Paul is referring to? See verse 6.

¹Tozer, A. W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. New York: Harper Collins, 1961. 1.

12. What observations can you make about the mystery in verse 9?

13. What attribute of God does Paul mention in verse 9? Why does he include that attribute here in his discussion about the mystery? Why does he want us to know that about God at this particular time?

14. What will happen when the mystery is brought to light? See verse 10. How is that truth made known? To whom is it made known?

15. Who are the *rulers* and *authorities* mentioned, and what do you learn about them? See verse 10 and 1:21; 6:12; Rom. 8:38; Col. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:22.

16. Can you think of a reason why God would want to reveal His wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places?

17. What is the eternal purpose which God carried out in Christ Jesus? See verses 8-10?

18. What does that phrase *eternal purpose* (verse 11) convey about God?

19. Define *access* (NIV *approach* [Strong's #4318]).
- a. How is access to the Father made possible according to verse 12? In what manner can we come before God (verse 12)? Also see Heb. 4:14-16; 10:19-22.

20. Are you taking advantage of your *privilege of access* to God? Think about your prayer life. How often do you come to Him throughout the day? What is your manner and attitude in coming before Him?

It is the believer's privilege to have access at all times to his heavenly Father. Whatever our desires, our difficulties, our wants, we are at liberty to spread all before him. It matters not how much we may have sinned, we may ask and expect pardon. It signifies nothing how poor we are, we may plead his promise that he will provide all things needful. We have permission to approach his throne at all times—in midnight's darkest hour, or in noontide's most burning heat. Exercise thy right, O believer, and live up to thy privilege. Thou art free to all that is treasured up in Christ—wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. It matters not what thy need is, for there is fulness of supply in Christ, and it is there for thee. O what a "freedom" is thine! Freedom from condemnation, freedom to the promises, freedom to the throne of grace, and at last freedom to enter heaven!²

21. Paul wraps up what he has been saying in verses 2-12 and returns to the thought with which he began this chapter. What request does he make of the Ephesian church in verse 13? Why?

22. How is Paul's request in verse 13 tied to what he has been writing them in verses 2-12?

²Spurgeon, C. H. (1995). *Morning and Evening: Daily readings* (September 19 AM). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

23. Paul never seemed to lose sight of the eternal, even when going through difficulty. What was Paul's secret? Look at what we have already studied in this book for clues. How can you apply those same things to your life, so that you too can maintain an eternal perspective while living here on earth?

Ephesians

Lesson #13, Chapter 3:14-21

Before you begin today's lesson, spend some time in prayer asking God to help you learn and understand His word.

1. Paul begins verse 14 with the phrase, *For this reason*. What previous thought is he now connecting to verse 14?
2. What does that information cause him to do in verse 14?
3. What does that action communicate? See Ps. 5:7; 95:6; Is. 45:23; Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:10.
4. As you came to God in prayer today, yesterday, this week, what was the posture of your heart and body? Did it communicate reverence and respect to God?

It is poor worship to move our hats, but not our hearts. ~Thomas Adams¹

5. What do you learn about the Father in verses 14-15?

¹Adams, Thomas. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989. 317.

6. Notice how Paul uses the same name for God in other epistles. Record what you learn about the Father. See Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 1:3; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:17; 2:18; 5:20; 6:23; Phil. 2:11; Col. 1:3, 12, 19; 3:17.

7. Define *grant* (NIV *pray* [Strong's #1325]) from verse 16.

8. What is the first thing that Paul prays for the Ephesian believers in verse 16? What are the qualifiers that go along with that request (also in verse 16)?

9. Every believer has the Holy Spirit residing within them (Rom. 8:5-13; Gal. 5:22-25), which means that what Paul prays for his readers is already available to you. The Holy Spirit in you can and will strengthen your inner man with His power. There is nothing too difficult for God. You have every resource you need to overcome sin and weakness of character in your life. How can you practically apply this truth to your life this week?

10. Define the word *dwell* [Strong's #2730] from verse 17.

11. How is Christ's ability to dwell in you the result of the Holy Spirit's making you holy in your inner man?

12. What is the result of the strengthening of the Holy Spirit and Christ's ability to be at home in your inner man according to verse 17?

13. Define *rooted* [Strong's #4492] and *grounded* (NIV *established* [Strong's #2311]) from verse 17.

14. What does being thoroughly centered in love allow you to do? What is the final result? See Ephesians 3:18-19.

15. Define *comprehend* (NIV *grasp* [Strong's #2638]) from verse 18.

16. *How* are you filled up to all the fullness of God (verse 19)? Is it because of any effort on your part?

17. Paul closes this chapter with a benediction. What do you learn about God in verses 20-21?

18. Kenneth Wuest explains about verse 20, "The compound word [exceeding abundantly] is a superlative of superlatives in force. It speaks of the ability of God to do something, that ability having more than enough potential power, this power exhaustless, and then some on top of that. Thus, Paul says that God is able to do super-abundantly above and beyond what we ask or think, and then some on top of that."² Our God is a great God. Does your prayer life reflect that? If it doesn't reflect that understanding, what needs to change?

²Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (Eph 3:20). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

John MacArthur has said, "What am I believing God for, that only He can do, so that when He does it, He gets all the glory?"

19. What is the power that is working in you according to Ephesians 3:20-21? See also Eph. 1:19-20 and Col. 1:29.

20. What is the relationship between God's power working in us and God doing more than we can ask or think? Consider verse 20 as you answer.

21. Who gets glory (verse 21)? From whom? Where? When?

22. Summarize what you learned about God from this lesson and then give Him glory in your words and thoughts.

Note, further, that our desires are a test very much superior to several other favorite modes of self-judging. For instance, many people judge their religion by the regularity of their attention to its outward duties. "I was never absent on a Sunday morning, nor even from an evening service. I attend the communion at least once a month, I go to the prayer-meetings, I read a chapter or half a chapter every day, I bow my knees at my bedside every morning and evening; I have never omitted any part of my duty for years past." I am very glad to hear it, respected friend; but if you have no desires towards God, all your regularity of attendance does but liken you to the church clock, which is quite as punctual, or to the pulpit Bible, which never leaves its place. You may be a capital Pharisee, but you are not a true Christian unless your soul is full of living desires. If you cry out, "I am thirsting for God, the living God. My spirit groans after holiness. When I have bowed my knee, I groan before God because I cannot live as I would, or even pray as I desire to pray. I have come to the house of God longing to be fed with spiritual meat. I have always been a hungry soul

towards divine things”: then I quote my Master’s words, “Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Living desires are better than dead duties, as a living dog is better than a dead lion. The most regular outward performance of pious duties may be the revolution of heartless machinery; but desires mean life, and life is needful if we would please the living God.³ ~C. H. Spurgeon

³Spurgeon, C. H. (1998). *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 26* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons. Albany, OR: Ages Software.

Ephesians

Lesson #14, Chapter 4 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, which can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 4 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 4. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-16).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 17-24).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 25-32).

4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time *God* is mentioned as you did in *Ephesians Chapter 1*. Your *Chapter 4* list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below from *Ephesians Chapter 1*.

- Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*
- Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*
- Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*
- Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and *Father*
- Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.

9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.

10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from Ephesians 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that God is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing*. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.
17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 4

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians

Lesson #15, Chapter 4:1-16

Read all of Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Ask God to help you understand and apply His word to your life.

1. Paul begins Chapter 4 by writing, *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you*. What does Paul entreat the Ephesians to do according to verse 1?
2. What previous thoughts is Paul now connecting to Chapter 4 with the “therefore” in his opening statement, *I, therefore, the prisoners of the Lord* (Ephesians 4:1)?
3. What does Paul mean when he urges the Ephesians—and us—to *walk in a worthy manner*? See also Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12.
4. Why are you to walk in a worthy manner according to verse 1? Why should that truth make a difference in your daily life?
5. Verses 2-3 provide a picture of what it looks like to walk in a worthy manner. What do you learn?

6. Define the following words from verse 2-3.
- a. *Humility* (NKJV *lowliness*; NIV *be completely humble* [Strong's #5012]). See also Phil. 2:3-4; Col. 3:12-13; 1 Pet. 5:5.

 - b. *Gentleness* (NKJV *meekness* [Strong's #4236]). See also Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12; Titus 3:2.

 - c. *Patience* (NKJV *longsuffering* [Strong's #3115]). See also Gal. 5:22; Col. 1:10-11; 2 Tim. 3:10.

 - d. *Tolerance* (NKJV, ESV, NIV *bearing with* [Strong's #430]). See also 1 Cor. 4:12; Col. 3:13.

 - e. *Diligent* (ESV *eager*; NKJV *endeavoring*; NIV *make every effort* [Strong's #4704]). See also 2 Tim. 2:15.
7. Where does the unity of believers come from (verse 3)? What do you learn from verses 4-6 about the unity of the Spirit?
8. From verses 4-6, explain why it is so important to maintain unity among believers.

9. What new information does Paul add in verse 7 in his discussion on unity?

10. Verses 7-8 explain that Christ has given us a gift. What do verses 11-13 reveal about Christ's gift?

11. Look up Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; and 1 Peter 4:10. What do they teach you about Christ's gift?

12. From verse 12 define *equipping* (NIV *prepare* [Strong's #2677]) and *building* (NKJV *edifying* [Strong's #3619]).

13. Based upon the gifts given to some in verse 11, how are the saints equipped?

14. What are you being equipped for according to verse 12?

15. You *have been given* a gift from Christ, you *are being* equipped to serve through preaching and teaching, now the question is, *are you* serving? Are you ministering to others with the gifts God has given you for the good of others in the body of Christ? How can you excel still more in this area?

16. Why does Paul need to caution us to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit at the forefront of his discussion (see verse 3) on the wonderful gifts that Christ gives every believer?
17. Let's return to verses 9-10. When Paul quoted Ps. 68:18 to provide further evidence of God's intentions toward believers, it moved him to write about an important parenthetical thought. What is he explaining in verses 8-10? What does this truth have to do with Christ's ability to give gifts to men?

The central thought in verses 8–10 is that the Giver of the gifts is the ascended Christ. There were no such gifts before He went back to heaven. This lends further support to the contention that the church did not exist in the OT; for if it did, it was a church without gifts.¹

18. Verse 14 begins with the phrase *as a result* (ESV *so that*; NIV *then*; NKJV *that*). In your own words, summarize what Paul has been saying in the previous verses as he now transitions into a new thought in verse 14.
19. What are we to no longer be (verse 14)? Why?
20. Instead, what are we to be like? Verse 15.

¹William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad. Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995. Eph 4:10.

21. The idea of *speaking* the truth is to be a *follower* of truth, to *live and speak* the truth. How are we to speak and live the truth according to verse 15? Why is that quality necessary when living closely with other believers?

22. What is to be the result of speaking the truth in love (verses 15-16)?

23. What picture is painted about the unity and interdependence of the members of the body of Christ in these verses?

24. Why is your role and service necessary to the body of Christ? Think about your current involvement at church. Are you doing your part to ensure that the body is being built up into Christ's likeness? How can you minister to others more effectively in your home and at church?

"The whole body must fit in with all its parts if it is to work properly together. Paul speaks of 'the working in due measure of each separate part,' which brings out the variety of functions that are exercised by the parts of the body and the importance of balance. If one part of the body overperforms, there is a malfunction; the same is true if it underperforms. There is a proper balance in every fit and healthy body. And what is true of the physical human body is true also of the church, the body of Christ. Each of us is to fulfill his or her proper function, neither slacking on it so that our work is left undone, nor taking over functions that properly belong to someone else."² ~Leon Morris

²Morris, Leon. *Expository Reflections on the Letter to the Ephesians*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1994. 132.

Ephesians
Lesson #16, Chapter 4:17-24

Read Chapter 4 verses 1-24 before beginning this lesson.

1. Paul phrases his opening comments in verse 17 in such a way that you know that what follows is very important to understand. What does he say that gives weight to his words?
2. What does he want us to make sure we do according to verse 17?
3. Since Paul is speaking to Gentile believers, what group does *Gentile* refer to as Paul uses it in verse 17? See also 1 Thess. 4:5.
4. What are the first 3 characteristics of how *those* Gentiles walk (verses 17-18)? Also see Rom. 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:3.
5. Why do they walk that way (verse 18)?
6. What is the result of their ignorance and the hardness of their hearts (verse 19)?

7. Define *callous* (NIV *lost all sensitivity*; NKJV *being past feeling* [Strong's #524]).

John MacArthur, commenting on verses 17-19, writes: "That process characterizes every unbeliever. It is the direction that every ungodly person is headed, although some are further along than others. "Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). That some people may not reach the extremes Paul mentions in Ephesians 4:17-19 is due only to the protective shield of God's common grace that He showers both on the righteous and the unrighteous (see Matt. 5:45) and to the preserving influence of the Holy Spirit (Job 34:14-15) and of the church (Matt. 5:13)."¹

8. Paul began this section with an appeal for believers to no longer walk in their old ways before knowing Christ as Savior. Perhaps after studying the walk and thoughts of an unbeliever, you recognize that you still carry the vestiges of that old life with you. Do you find that you harden your heart against the alarms of your conscience so you can engage in a particular sin? Do you practice impurity in your mind or body? Do you find that there is a greedy eagerness in your soul to engage in a particular sin? *If so, repent and walk no longer like an unbeliever.* Ask God to change your thinking about those sins and to make your heart sensitive once again to the Holy Spirit's conviction. Ask God to help you apply what we will learn in verses 20-24. Before you move on to the next questions, take some time talk to the Lord about what we've just studied.
9. What contrast is being made in verse 20?
10. What are the marks of authentic salvation according to verses 20-21? See also 1 Jn. 5:20.
11. What is the first thing we have been taught in Him (verse 22)?

¹MacArthur, John. *Ephesians*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996, c1986. 172.

12. What observations can you make about the old self from verse 22? Now add Rom. 6:6 and Col. 3:9 to your observations about the old self.

13. Verse 23 outlines the next step in walking in Christ. What is it?

14. Define *renewed* (NIV *made new* [Strong's #365]).

15. How is this renewal accomplished? See 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5.

16. The process of renewal begins at salvation when we are given a new heart that will long to do the will of God. Yet that process is not complete; God tells us to lay aside the old self and be renewed in the spirit of our minds. How are the patterns of thought affected? How do you change your thinking? See Ps. 119:11; Prov. 23:7; Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 4:12.

17. What is the next step to walking in Christ (verse 24)?

18. What observations can you make about your new self from verse 24? Now add Col. 3:10-14 to your observations about the new self.

19. If you find that there seems to be too much old self, too little renewal in your life, and not enough new self, what does that tell you? What are your options for changing that pattern?

20. What does every believer need to keep in mind during this process? See Gal. 2:20-21; 3:3; 5:25; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12-13.

21. Write down a way (or some of the ways) that you still walk in the manner of your former life. Now formulate a Scriptural plan to lay it aside.

22. What are some ways you can renew your mind and put on the new self? Try to be as specific and detailed as possible.

A hypocrite knows more than he is willing to do; but a true saint desires to do what he knows, and to know more that he may do more, and better.² ~Vavasor Powell

Take time to be holy.
Speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children.
Help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy.
The world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus,
like Him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

²Powell, Vavasor. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 52.

Take time to be holy.
Let Him be thy guide, and run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow still follow thy Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy.
Be calm in thy soul — each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus, led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.³

³Longstaff, William. “Take Time to Be Holy.” *The Celebration Hymnal*. Word Music/Integrity Music. 1997. 656.

Ephesians

Lesson #17, Chapter 4:25-32

Ask God for clarity of thought and a soft heart as you read through all of Chapter 4.

1. Explain Paul's train of thought through Ephesians Chapter 4:1-25. Then after looking at verse 25, consider what the *therefore* is there for.

2. What are we commanded to do in verse 25?

3. Define *falsehood* (NKJV *lying* [Strong's #5579]).
 - a. Also record what you learn about lying after looking at just *some* of what the Bible has to say on the subject: Ex. 23:1; Ps. 5:6; 34:13; 40:4; 119:163; Prov. 13:5; Mark 7:21-23; Jn. 8:44; Col. 3:9; 1 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:8, 27.

4. Based on what you discovered above, what is the scope of a lie? When does it begin? What forms can it take? Can a lie only be in the spoken word?

"If it's not a whole truth, it's a half-truth and if it's a half-truth, it's a lie."

5. What reasons are given in verses 17-24, and in verse 25, for not lying anymore? Explain why *that second reason* from verse 25 should be a deterrent against lying.

6. Consider this statement by John MacArthur as he comments on this verse: “More than simply telling direct falsehoods, lying also includes exaggeration and adding fabrications to something that is true. Cheating, making foolish promises, betraying a confidence, and making false excuses are all forms of lying, with which Christians should have no part.”¹ Do any of these areas apply to you? How can you live more truthfully with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

7. What do verses 26-27 teach you about anger?

8. Look at Mark 3:1-5 and Jn. 2:13-16 for an example of anger that is not sinful. Why wasn't it sinful?

Aristotle said, “Anybody can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not easy.”²

9. Most of the time the anger we feel is not righteous, godly anger, but the anger of our own sinful nature. What actions are implied in the admonition to not let the sun go down on your anger and not to give the devil an opportunity? (If you're not sure, look at Ps. 37:8; Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Jn. 1:9).

10. How does our sin give the devil an *opportunity*? See 2 Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 6:11-13, 16; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Eph 4:25). Nashville: Word Pub.

²MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. (1997, c1995). *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments* (Eph 4:26). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

11. Just knowing that Satan is pleased when we sin through anger is enough to make us want to combat it. Look up the following verses and choose your favorite one. Begin memorizing it, if you haven't already, to help you continue to fight against the wrong kind of anger. Look up Prov. 12:16; 14:29; 15:1, 18; 16:32; 22:24-25; Gal. 5:20-21; James 1:19-20.

12. Instead of stealing, what are we supposed to do (verse 28)? Why?

13. Record what you learn from Prov. 28:13; Luke 19:8-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11 and 1 Pet. 4:15 about the changed life and purposes of the believer.

14. Not only are we to steal no longer, but we are to do the *opposite* of stealing. We are to labor and do good and share with others. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about labor, and why God wants us to learn to be diligent in this area: 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6-12; Titus 3:14.

15. Are you being faithful to labor for the reasons you just learned from the above verses and from Ephesians 4:28? How can you be more diligent in this area of the Christian life?

16. After confronting issues like honesty, anger, and stealing, Paul continues to pound away at our old self by dealing with our speech. What commands are we given in verse 29?

24. What impact has this truth had upon your dealings with other people? How are you different because Jesus Christ has forgiven you?

Our forgiving of others will not procure forgiveness for ourselves;
but our not forgiving others proves that we ourselves are not forgiven. ~John Owen³

³Owen, John. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 111.

Ephesians

Lesson #18, Chapter 5 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, which can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 5 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 5. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-14).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 15-21).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 22-33).

4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time *God* is mentioned as you did in *Ephesians Chapter 1*. Your Chapter 5 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below from *Ephesians Chapter 1*.

- Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*
- Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*
- Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*
- Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and *Father*
- Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.

9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.

10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner*, or *like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from Ephesians 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that God is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing*. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.
17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 5

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

14 For this reason it says, “Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,
16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.
24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Ephesians

Lesson #19, Chapter 5:1-14

Prepare your heart for this lesson by spending some time in prayer before you begin. ☐

1. Verse 1 begins with *therefore*. What thoughts are being pulled together from the previous verses and Ephesians 5:1?
2. Why are we to be imitators of God according to verse 1?
3. Verse 2 reveals how we can begin to be imitators of God. What do you learn? Who is the supreme example of this trait?
4. How does the explanation in verse 2 of how to walk in love help make the command more practical?
5. What do the following verses teach you about imitating God? See Matt. 5:48; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 Jn. 3:1-2.
6. You cannot imitate what you don't know. What is the number one way you can get to know God so that you can begin to imitate Him? If you long to be more like God, what should you do? See Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; and 1 Pet. 2:1-3 for a hint.

7. Just in case we don't understand the scope of what it means to imitate God, Paul explains further by telling us not to do something in verse 3. What does he tell us not to do and why (verse 3)?

8. Define *immorality* (NKJV *fornication* [Strong's #4202]), *impurity* (NKJV *uncleanness* [Strong's #167]), and *greed* (ESV, NKJV *covetousness* [Strong's #4121]).

9. In verse 4 Paul lists more traits that are not fitting for believers to engage in. What are we *not* supposed to do? What are we to make sure we do?

10. Define *filthiness* (NIV *obscenity* [Strong's #151]), *silly* or *foolish talk* [Strong's #3473], and *coarse jesting* (ESV *crude joking* [Strong's #2160]).

11. What do you know for sure according to verse 5?

12. What does that information have to do with what Paul has been saying in verses 1-4?

13. What warning does Paul give the Ephesians in verse 6? Why was that warning necessary?

14. What do you know about the *sons of disobedience* from verses 5-6 and 2:1-3?

15. It is because of what you learned in verses 5-6 that we are not to be partakers with them. Define *partakers* (ESV, NIV *partners* [Strong's #4830]).

16. What further reasons for not being partakers with the sons of disobedience are given in verses 8-10?

17. How can you learn what is pleasing to the Lord? What *attitudes* go along with a desire to please the Lord? Are you characterized by a desire to please the Lord *today*?

18. Paul helps us out by explaining what walking as children of light looks like. What do you learn in verse 9?

19. What admonitions are we given in verse 11? Why (verse 12)?

20. Define *expose* (KJV *reprove* [Strong's #1651]).

21. People may think that they are able to sin in secret, but what do we know with certainty (verse 13)? See also Ps. 90:8; Jn. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 4:5; Heb. 4:13.

22. Explain how verse 14 is a summary of the previous verses. Look at Rom. 13:11-13 and 1 Thess. 5:1-10 to see how they echo verse 14.

23. Even though we are new creatures in Christ, there are times when the vestiges of our old life still cling to us. We must shed that old life and walk as children of light. Name 1 or 2 areas that you need to work on from verses 1-14. What plan do you have for dealing with those areas?

A sheep may fall into a ditch, but it is the swine that wallows in it. ~William Gurnall¹

It is your duty and glory to do that every day that you would willingly do upon a dying day.

Ah, how would you live and love upon a dying day?

How would you admire God, rest upon God, delight in God, long for God, and walk with God, upon a dying day?
How would you hate, loathe, and abhor your bosom sins upon a dying day? . . . Thrice happy is that soul that labors with all his might to do that at first that he would give a thousand worlds to do on a dying day. ~Thomas Brooks²

¹Gurnall, William. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 271.

²Brooks, Thomas. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 281.

Ephesians
Lesson #20, Chapter 5:15-21

Ask the Lord for wisdom in applying what you learn in this lesson.

1. Review what we learned last week from 5:1-14 and record it here.
2. In light of those truths from 5:1-14, what admonition does Paul give us in verses 15-16? Why (verse 16)?
3. Define *careful* (NKJV *circumspectly* [Strong's #199]) and *walk* (NIV *live* [Strong's #4043]).
4. Define *making the most of your time* (NKJV *redeeming the time* [Strong's #1805]).
5. What are some biblical ways you can make the most of your time? See verse 15; Rom. 13:11-14; Gal. 6:10; Col. 4:5.
6. Why would knowing that the days are evil be a motivation for making the most of your time? What is implied in that statement? See Ps. 39:4-5; Eccles. 11:2; 1 Cor. 7:26, 29-31; Eph. 6:13; James 4:14-17.

7. What won't the foolish or the unwise understand in verse 17?

8. What is God's will for the Ephesians according to the preceding verses (see 5:1-16)?

9. Another aspect of walking wisely is added in verse 18. What do you learn?

10. The Greek construction of this command in verse 18 indicates that you are to be continually allowing the Holy Spirit to fill you. How do you do that? See Eph. 4:30; 5:18; Gal. 5:16-25; 1 Jn. 1:9.

11. How can you tell when you are filled with the Spirit? See verses 19-20 and Gal. 5:22-24.

12. Notice one manifestation of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life is the Word of God. What do you need to do if the Word of God is to pour out of your mouth like Paul describes in verse 19? Also see Col. 3:16. Are you doing that?

13. Why would always being thankful for all things be another indication of a Spirit-filled life?

14. What is another way to tell if you are filled with the Spirit according to verse 21? Why is that a good indication of being Spirit-filled? See also Phil. 2:3-7.

15. Why would the *fear of Christ* be a motivation for submission? See also 2 Cor. 5:11 and 7:1.

16. This section began by contrasting the wise man and the unwise man. What did you learn about the wise man from verses 15-21?

17. What distinguishes a wise man from an unwise man in verses 15-21?

18. What are the first steps to walking as a wise man according to verses 15-21?

19. If someone said to you, “How can I *practically* be careful in how I walk?” What would you tell them? Try to be as specific and concrete as you can. Try coming up with 5 things from today’s lesson.

20. If someone then said to you, “How can I make the most of my time?” What would you tell them? Again, try to be as specific and concrete in your answer as you can. Try coming up with 5 things.

21. What if someone said to you, “I think I spend most of my day not being filled with the Holy Spirit. I start out okay, but before I know it, I am singing songs of drudgery and complaint. What do I need to change so that my life will look like Eph. 5:19-21 and Gal. 5:22-24? Based upon what you have learned in this lesson what would you tell them?
22. What if someone then said to you, “What are some ways I can be subject to other believers?” What would you tell them? Try to think of some specific attitudes and actions that would help them be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

“Human nature likes rule; but the Spirit of God works submissiveness of mind. Instead of wanting to be first, the truly spiritual man will be satisfied to be last, if he can thus glorify God. That man who must be always king of the castle, is not filled with the Spirit of God; but he that is willing to be a doormat, on which the saints may wipe their feet, is great in the kingdom of heaven. Be filled with the Spirit, and you will soon submit to inconvenience, misapprehension, and even exaction for the sake of doing good to those who are out of the way, and in the hope of edifying the people of God. Wine causes riot; the Spirit causes peace. Drunkenness causes contention; the Spirit of God causes submission.” ~Charles Spurgeon¹

¹Spurgeon, C. H. (1998). *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 35* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons. Albany, OR: Ages Software.

Ephesians

Lesson #21, Chapter 5:22-33

Stop. Pray. Begin.

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 is tightly linked to the preceding verses. Briefly list the main thoughts from 5:1-21.
2. After Paul's general statement that all believers are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ, Paul provides extra teaching for wives. What does he tell them they need to do (verse 22)?
3. Define *subject* (ESV, KJV, NIV *submit* [Strong's #5293]).
4. List what you learn from the following Scriptures about *submission*. Be sure to note who is to submit and any specific guidelines for submission. See Luke 2:51; Rom. 13:1; Ephesians 5:21; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5, 9; 3:1; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13, 18; 3:1, 5; 5:5.
5. What do the phrases, *to your own husbands* and *as to the Lord*, teach you about a wife's submission from Ephesians 5:22?
6. What is the husband/wife relationship compared to in verses 23-24?

7. From verses 23-24, list any specifics you learn about the relationship of which husbands and wives are compared.

8. What do your observations from verses 23-24 teach you about God's plan for the marriage relationship?

9. If you are married, consider how and in what manner *you* submit to *your* husband. Are there any areas you need to work on? If you are feeling really brave, ask your husband if he thinks there are any areas you need to work on.

10. If you are not married, what are some ways you can encourage married friends to give glory to God in submitting to their husbands? What are some ways you can practice submission, just as Jesus did?

11. Why is it good for all believers to practice submission?

12. In the Spirit-filled life, husbands also receive exhortations about their role in the marriage relationship. What are the husbands commanded to do in verse 25?

13. Paul cites Jesus as a husband's example for loving his wife. List what you learn about Jesus's example of loving from verses 25-27.

14. What does it mean to *sanctify* (NIV *make her holy* [Strong's #37]) something?

15. What are some specific ways that husbands can love their wives by following Christ's example of loving the church (verses 25-27)?

16. Paul continues with his exhortations to husbands in verses 28-30. How are husbands to love their wives from those verses?

17. Define *nourishes* (NIV *feeds* [Strong's #1625]) and *cherishes* (NIV *cares for* [Strong's #2282]).

18. What is the connection between the church being members of Christ's body and the Genesis 2:24 quote in verse 31? Why is the Genesis reference a reason for husbands to love their wives?

19. In verse 32, Paul refers to a *mystery*. What is the mystery? Consider verses 29-32 as you form your answer.

20. In verse 33 Paul wants to leave his readers with the main point of his discussion in Ephesians 5:22-33. What is his main point for husbands and for wives (verse 33)?

21. The Amplified Bible expounds on verse 33 in this way: *However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly.* If you are married, consider how you “respect” your husband. Is your respect for him to the level that this verse reveals? What are some specific ways you can implement some of these ideas this week?
- a. If you are not married, what does this verse teach you about the focus and commitment needed in the marriage relationship, especially in light of 1 Cor. 7:32-35?
22. There may be some of you whose husband does not love you as himself and you find it extremely difficult to respect your husband. God has some words of encouragement and help for you too. What do you learn from the following verses? See 1 Pet. 3:1-6, now read 1 Pet. 2:21-25. See also Ps. 103:13-14; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 5:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:6-7.

“I wouldn’t give up my Katie for France or Venice—first, because God gave her to me and gave me to her; second, because I have often observed that other women have more shortcomings than my Katie (although she too has some shortcomings, they are outweighed by many great virtues); and third, because she keeps faith in marriage, that is, fidelity and respect.” ~Martin Luther¹

As God by creation made two of one, so again by marriage He made one of two. ~Thomas Adams²

¹*Heritage of Great Evangelical Teaching: Featuring the Best of Martin Luther, John Wesley, Dwight L. Moody, C.H. Spurgeon and Others.* 1997, c1996. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

²Adams, Thomas. *A Puritan Golden Treasury.* Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989. 178.

“To My Dear and Loving Husband”
by Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672),
wife of Gov. Simon Bradstreet

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay,
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere
That when we live no more, we may live ever.³

³Bradstreet, Anne. “Anne Bradstreet.” Wikipedia: the Free Encyclopedia. 8 Nov. 2006
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Bradstreet>.

Ephesians

Lesson #22, Chapter 6 Observation

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, which can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in the Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later, I promise. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 6 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

How to Do a Chapter Observation

1. Begin with prayer. Ask God to show you how His word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His word. Pray for a clear mind and a patient heart as you look at His word for this lesson.
2. Read straight through the chapter using the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout in this lesson. This will show you the flow of the chapter.
3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 6. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-4).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 5-9).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-17).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 18-20).

- e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 21-22).

 - f. Summarize paragraph 6 (verses 23-24).

 4. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

 5. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

 6. On the *Ephesians Bible Text* handout mark key words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.
- Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.
7. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned as you did in Ephesians Chapter 1.

Your Chapter 6 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below from Ephesians Chapter 1.

Vs. 1 – by the will of *God*

Vs. 2 – grace to you and peace from *God*

Vs. 2 – *God* our *Father*

Vs. 3 – Blessed be the *God* and *Father*

Vs. 4 – just as *He* chose us

8. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.
9. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
10. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
11. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.
12. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
13. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
14. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from Ephesians 1:1.
15. List any *attributes* of *God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit* that you notice in this chapter. An attribute is a characteristic or quality used to describe an object or person. For example, you might read John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” From this verse we see that *God* is loving [because He loved the world]; He is giving [because He gave His Son]; He is eternal [because only the eternal can offer eternal life].
16. Look for lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Ephesians 1:1 *we find a list about those to whom Paul is writing*. We discover 1) they are called saints; 2) they live in Ephesus; 3) they are faithful; and 4) they are in Christ.

17. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God’s word!

Ephesians Bible Text
Chapter 6

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

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Lesson #23, Chapter 6:1-9

Read through Chapter 5 and 6:1-9 before beginning this lesson. Be sure to ask the Lord to give you insight into His Word.

1. Explain the flow of thought in Chapter 5 as it moves into Chapter 6 verse 1.
2. What instruction does God's Word contain for children (verse 1)?
3. What parameters are built into this command to children in verse 1? How would those parameters be a protection, guide, and motivation to children in their obedience (verse 1)?
4. Paul's epistles were sent to the churches and then read out loud for all to hear. Here, children are addressed along with the adults. What does that tell you about children and their participation in church?
5. In verses 2-3 Paul recites the fifth of the Ten Commandments (which can be found in Ex. 20:2-17 or Deut. 5:6-21) and adds his own commentary on that commandment. Why would Paul's comment be a helpful motivation for children—and for parents training their children?
6. Define *obey* [Strong's #5219] and *honor* [Strong's #5091]. Why are both terms good and necessary for children to have toward their parents?

7. Children must be trained to obey their parents, and that responsibility falls upon the parents. If you have children in your home, are you teaching them to obey and honor you as if they were obeying the Lord? What are some ways you can train your children to obey and honor you? If you no longer have children at home or don't have any children, how can you help and encourage other parents to teach their children to obey?

8. Next in our text, Paul gives instructions to fathers. What does he warn them not to do (verse 4)? What are some ways a father could do that? See also Col. 3:21.

9. In contrast, Paul explains how fathers are to train their children. What do you learn in verse 4?

10. Define the following words:
 - a. *bring up* [Strong's #1625]:

 - b. *discipline* (NIV *training*, KJV *nurture* [Strong's #3809]):

 - c. *instruction* (KJV *admonition* [Strong's #3559]).

11. Based on what we have studied about verse 4, how would you describe biblical parenting?

12. What are some ways parents can excel still more in *bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*?
13. No other relationship we have seems to reveal the deficiencies of our own walk with the Lord like that of the parent and child. Parenting tests us in *what we believe, how we live it out, and how we pass it on* to our children. We must possess ourselves what we seek to pass on to our children. How are you doing in *your own obedience* to the Lord? What areas need some attention?

If you neglect to instruct them [your children] in the way of holiness, will the devil neglect to instruct them in the way of wickedness? No; if you will not teach them to pray, he will [teach them] to curse, swear, and lie; if ground be uncultivated, weeds will spring. ~John Flavel¹

Treat your children as though you won't have them next year.

Train your children as though they won't have you next year.²

14. Explain the who, what, when, where, and why of a slave's obedience from verses 5-8.
15. The closest parallel we have to the slave/master relationship today is the employee/boss relationship. Do the qualifications for a slave's obedience have application in the employee/boss realm?
16. What do you learn about the will of God from verses 5-6?

¹Flavel, John. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 204.

²Unknown.

17. No matter what your work situation, what truths from these verses do you find especially encouraging? Why?

18. How does the *replacement principle* (i.e., remembering we work for Christ, rather than for man) change everything for us, no matter what our job may be?

19. What two commands are given to Christian masters in verse 9?

20. Paul says that masters/bosses are to do the same things to their slaves/employees. What are the *same things* he refers to? See verses 5-8.

21. What *two truths* are to guide a Christian master/boss in how he treats his slaves/employees, especially those who are fellow believers from verse 9? Explain why knowing that would make a difference in how a master/boss might treat his slave/employee.

22. The key to children obeying their parents and parents training their children, slaves being obedient to their masters and masters treating their slaves respectfully comes down to doing all things *as to the Lord*. Maintaining that attitude can transform every task into direct service for the Lord. How can any attitudes of bitterness, resentment, rebellion, or anger be transformed, so that all things can be done as to the Lord?

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak, or do.

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil:
In all Thy works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
~Charles Wesley³

I cannot work my soul to save,
For that my Lord hath done;
But I will work like any slave,
For the love of God's dear Son.
~Author unknown⁴

Work becomes worship when done for the Lord. ~Author unknown⁵

³Water, M. (2000). *The New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotations* (621). Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishers Ltd.

⁴Ibid (1129).

⁵Ibid (1129).

Ephesians

Lesson #24, Chapter 6:10-24

Begin this lesson by drawing near to God, asking Him to help you to understand and apply His Word to your life.

1. As we move into our final section of the book of Ephesians let's review what we have learned so far:
 - a. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 1.
 - b. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 2.
 - c. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 3.
 - d. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 4.
 - e. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 5.
 - f. And finally, in one sentence, summarize Chapter 6:1-9.

“The true Christian described in Ephesians 1–3 who lives the faithful life described in 4:1—6:9 can be sure that he will be involved in the spiritual warfare described in 6:10–20. The faithful Christian life is a battle; it is warfare on a grand scale—because when God begins to bless, Satan begins to attack.”

“If we are walking worthy of our calling, in humility rather than pride, in unity rather than divisiveness, in the new self rather than the old, in love rather than lust, in light rather than darkness, in wisdom rather than foolishness, in the fullness of the Spirit rather than the drunkenness of wine, and in mutual submission rather than self-serving independence, then we can be absolutely certain we will have opposition and conflict.”¹ ~John MacArthur

2. How does Paul begin his last comments to the Ephesian believers (verses 10-11)?

3. Explain the purpose of armor. Notice how this armor is described in verse 11.

4. Why are those preparations necessary? See verses 11-12.

5. After describing the spiritual battles we face in verses 11-12, Paul tells us exactly how we are to face the spiritual forces of wickedness. What does he tell us to do in verse 13?

6. Let’s take a closer look at the spiritual armor we are to wear from verses 14-17.

The Piece of Armor	Description of the Armor	Why was this <i>literal</i> piece of armor necessary?	Why is this piece of armor <i>spiritually</i> necessary?
1.			
2.			

¹MacArthur, John. *Ephesians*. Chicago: Moody Press, (1996, c1986). 331.

3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

When Christian came down in the morning, Watchful was waiting for him. They were to go to the Armory, Watchful said, where the four sisters would be waiting. They went quickly through the long halls richly carpeted, lit by tall, many-paned windows. Had Christian gone alone, he would have become quickly turned around, but with Watchful he was soon at the stout oak door that guarded the Armory. The wood was old and strong.

“But it seems slashed and hacked at,” observed Christian.

“Much of what you see inside has been slashed and hacked at,” answered Watchful. “This is, after all, the stuff of war.”

The first thing Christian saw inside was Discretion and her three sisters, standing quite straight and quite still. It was the kind of room where you wanted to be quiet, like an old church that makes you whisper in the half-light. The dark rafters leapt across the ceiling from one wall to the other, and from them hung bright banners depicting the stories of pilgrims to the Celestial City. (Many banners were yet blank.) On the walls hung shields and breastplates and helmets, and stacked beneath them were leggings and mailed gloves. Some of the armor was bright and new, but much of it was dented in many places and stained by old wounds.

Prudence walked to the wall and lifted off a breastplate. She brought it to Christian and strapped it on him. “To protect you against the one who wields death,” she said.

Next, Piety fitted on a helmet and leggings. “So that you may be strong in the battles before you.”

Charity gave him a broadsword. Gold embroidery twisted around its hilt, and the tempered blade felt cool to the touch.

Discretion brought a great round shield. “To avert the darts of the wicked one,” she said quietly.

Finally the sisters fitted him with a pair of gloves. He stood before them, overcome by the greatness of their gift. But there was one problem.

“I have no armor for my back,” he said.

“Do you intend to retreat and show your back to your enemies?” asked Discretion.

Then Christian understood. “No, my lady,” he said, smiling sheepishly. “I have no need of such armor.”

~Excerpt from *John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress* retold by Gary D. Schmidt²

7. Review verses 11-17. What is the key to spiritual victory? Are you practicing those things?

²Schmidt, Gary D. *Pilgrim’s Progress: A Retelling of John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, (1994). 27-28.

8. *When* are you engaged in a spiritual battle according to these verses? How do you *know* when you are in a spiritual battle?

9. How does understanding the truths from Question #8 change your perspective on trials and troubles, and ultimately change how you respond to them?

10. Knowing that we are soldiers engaged in a spiritual battle, what are we supposed to do? See verse 18.

11. What observations can you make about prayer from verse 18?

12. Explain the difference between *prayer* and *petition* from verse 18.

13. What does it mean to pray at all times *in the Spirit*? See Matt. 6:9-13; Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 20.

14. What is your attitude to be during prayer, dear soldier of Jesus Christ (verse 18)?

15. Define *alert* (NKJV *watchful* [Strong's #69]). Besides Ephesians 6:18, this word is used in Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36 and Heb. 13:17. Look up those references to gain added insight into the meaning of *alert*.

16. Think about the role *perseverance* plays in your prayer life. Why do we need to be encouraged to persevere in prayer? Consider Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8 as you form your answer.

If this were the last word I had to address to this congregation, I would say to you; "dear brethren, abound in prayer, multiply the petitions and the fervour with which you present them to God." ~Charles Spurgeon³

Pray without ceasing not because the circumstances which surround you are favorable, but simply because Jesus bids you to continue in prayer. ~Charles Spurgeon⁴

17. What did Paul want the Ephesians to pray for him *above all else* (verse 19)? Why was this so important to Paul (verse 20; 3:1; 4:1; Acts 9:15)?

18. Paul asks for boldness in proclaiming the Gospel. How is that an encouragement to you to know that the Apostle Paul asked prayer for boldness to witness about Christ?

19. What would you want people to pray for you *above all else*? Why is that so important to you?

³Spurgeon, Charles. *Nuggets of Gold: 2001 Spurgeon Quotes*. Compiled by George Burch. Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald International, (1999). 122.

⁴Ibid. 124.

20. What do you learn about Tychicus and his purpose from verses 21-22? See also Acts 20:4; Col. 4:7-8; 2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12.

21. What is Paul's final benediction to the Ephesian believers (verses 23-24)?

22. List 5 words that come to your mind when you think about the book of Ephesians.

23. How has your walk with the Lord grown from your study of the book of Ephesians?

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.
Amen!