BUILT UP, PART 1

SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 11, 2026

SERIES OVERVIEW

As we start the fall, we're going to spend our time walking through the beautiful book of Ephesians. The heart of this series is to continue to call the church back to its overarching vision of leading the lost to Jesus, and gathering maturing Christ followers to be about the work of God.

This is a specical time in the life of Woodlands Church, as we think about multiplying healthy churches. But that word 'healthy' is important - what does it mean to be a healthy church? And how can we trust God to work in and through His church even when His people are hurting, broken, or needing to grow? These sorts of questions are adressed throughout the book of Ephesians. Hint: it comes down to just who Jesus is.
And we'll be reminded that Jesus is more than enough.

BOOK OVERVIEW

The Book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul around AD 60–62 while under house arrest in Rome, is a letter originally sent to the multicultural city of Ephesus in modern-day Turkey. Known as a city steeped in commerce, magic, and idol worship, Ephesus was home to a young church that Paul spent over two years planting and discipling. Unlike many of Paul's other letters, this one was not written to address a specific local crisis or heresy. Instead, it serves as a grand theological treatise aimed at helping believers understand their new identity in Jesus, the breaking down of ethnic barriers between Jews and Gentiles, the beauty of God's vision for His church, and God's ultimate plan to unite all of creation under Christ.

Structurally, the six-chapter letter splits into two distinct, equal halves that balance theology with practice. This guide is covering the first half. These first three chapters explore what God has done, opening with a celebration of spiritual blessings and declaring that salvation is a gift received purely through grace and faith, not human effort. Paul explains the "mystery" that non-Jewish believers are equal co-heirs in God's family, forming one unified global body. While some of those concepts (Jew/Gentile) might be less compelling in our immediate context, continue to try and place yourself in the shoes of the ancient hearers as we seek to understand these texts.

When reading Ephesians, the key to unlocking its depth lies in recognizing that identity always precedes activity. Paul intentionally gives zero commands in the first three chapters, choosing instead to establish who the believer is "in Christ"—a phrase that appears over thirty times—before demanding any action.

As we start in this book, consider reading the opening three chapters in one sitting to capture the worshipful momentum of Paul's prayers.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide has been updated! It is designed to help you engage with some of the discipleship models that are taught at Woodlands through our Core Classes, and then to study the passage that will be preached on Sunday, in preparation for gathering together.

Use this guide during the week leading up to Sunday, to study the passage, build spiritual disciplines, reflect on our God who is so worthy of worship, and take sermon notes on Sunday morning.

WEEKLY GUIDE

If you have taken Bible 101, Faithful Habits, or Knowing the Living God, there are weekly guide pages that help you think intentionally through how you're integrating those concepts into your daily life. Your Life Group might use these pages.

Feel free to fill out as much or as little of these pages as is helpful to you.

PASSAGE STUDY

Three pages each week are dedicated to the passage study. Tear out the passage sheet, lay it next to the observation sheet, and mark them up with colored pencils and notes. Actively interact with the text! Take your time to make many good observations before moving onto interpretation. Remember, our interpretation will only be as thorough as our observation! And don't skip application.

---

1. OBSERVATION		2. INTERPRETATION		3. APPLICATION
What is the context? What does the text say?	→	Why did the author write this? What does it mean?	→	How should the truths of this text change me?

In every step, pray and meditate on God's Word.
Spending time with God in Scripture is the goal. Slow down to marvel at who He is. Ask Him to press His truth into you. Prioritize your relationship with Him over finding the right answer or the perfect application.
You change as you spend time with Him.

RESOURCES

Our church research library (in the chapel foyer) has a number of commentaries on Revelation. Feel free to stop by and reference them for help.

If you're interested in purchasing a commentary, we recommend either *Exalting Jesus in Ephesians (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)*, or *Ephesians for You (God's Word for You)*

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 49	Psalm 50	Psalm 51	Psalm 52	Psalm 53	Psalm 54	Psalm 19
Titus 1	Titus 2	Titus 3	Rev 1	Rev 2	Eph 1:1-14	
Ecc. 1-3	Ecc. 4-6	Ecc. 7-9	Ecc. 10-12	Song 1-3		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 36:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism. More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: What are the ordinances of the church?

Answer: The Lord Jesus gave to ordiannces for the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

SERMON NOTES:

PASSAGE STUDY
EPHESIANS 1:1-1:14
BLESSINGS

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

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and 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 in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed 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 upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

SEPTEMBER 7-13

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 55	Psalm 56	Psalm 57	Psalm 58	Psalm 59	Psalm 60	Psalm 10
Rev 3	Rev 4	Rev 5	Rev 6	Rev 7	Eph 1:15-23	
Song 4-6	Song 7-8	Jer 1-3	Jer 4-6	Jer 7-9		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 37:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism.
More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: What do the ordinances do?

Answer: The ordinances visibly and tangibly express the gospel and confirm and nourish the believer.

SERMON NOTES:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
EPHESIANS 1:15-23
FAR ABOVE

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love
toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my
prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the
Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your
hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the
working of his great might 20 that he worked 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 above every name that is named, not only in
this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things 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.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

SEPTEMBER 14-20

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 61	Psalm 62	Psalm 63	Psalm 64	Psalm 65	Psalm 66	Psalm 101
Rev 8	Rev 9	Rev 10	Rev 11	Rev 12	Eph 2:1-10	
Jer 10-12	Jer 13-15	Jer 16-18	Jer 19-21	Jer 22-24		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 38:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism. More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: Is following Jesus just about accepting His grace?

Answer: No. God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose

SERMON NOTES:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
EPHESIANS 2:1-2:10
BY GRACE

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following
the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is
now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the
passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by
nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our
trespasses, 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 coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in
kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not 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, that we should walk in them.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

SEPTEMBER 21-27

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 67	Psalm 68	Psalm 69	Psalm 70	Psalm 71	Psalm 72	Psalm 103
Rev 13	Rev 14	Rev 15	Rev 16	Rev 17	Eph 2:11-20	
Ecc. 1-3	Ecc. 4-6	Ecc. 7-9	Ecc. 10-12	Song 1-3		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 39:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism. More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: How are we to love God and others?

Answer: God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrafically.

SERMON NOTES:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
REVELATION 2:8-11
NO LONGER DIVIDED

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the
uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands
— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated 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 once were far off have been
brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us
both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing
the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one
new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in
one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached
peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we
both have 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 members of the household of God,
20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the
cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy
temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for
God by the Spirit.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCT 4

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 73	Psalm 74	Psalm 75	Psalm 76	Psalm 77	Psalm 78	Psalm 131
Rev 18	Rev 19	Rev 20	Rev 21	Rev 22	Eph 3:1-13	
Jer 25-27	Jer 28-30	Jer 31-33	Jer 34-36	Jer 37-39		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 40:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism. More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: How do we live out our faith?

Answer: We live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor, and justice for the oppressed.

SERMON NOTES:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
EPHESIANS 3:1-13
A GOOD MYSTERY

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2
assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me
for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written
briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5
which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been
revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was
given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the
saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of
Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom
of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our
Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in
him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your
glory.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

OCTOBER 5-11

WOODLANDS IN THE WORD:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Psalm 79	Psalm 80	Psalm 81	Psalm 82	Psalm 83	Psalm 84	Psalm 90
John 1	John 2	John 3	John 4	John 5	Eph 3:14-21	
Lam. 1-3	Lam. 4-5	Ezekiel 1-3	Ezekiel 4-6	Ezekiel 7-9		

FAITHFUL HABIT:

I will seek to be intentional in _____ by _____.
[category] *[practice summary].*
It will take _____ every _____. I'll need to stop _____.
[amount of time] *[frequency]* *[takeaway].*
In order to help build this habit, I'll _____.
[hack].
I'll share my habit goals with _____, and I'll keep track of it by _____.
[unprivate] *[log].*

KNOWING THE LIVING GOD; WEEK 41:

Reflect on and pray over this question and answer from our catechism.
More context can be found in the *Knowing the Living God Catecism*.

Question: How do we fight the spiritual forces of evil?

Answer: We combat the spiritual forces of evil with God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name.

SERMON NOTES:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
EPHESIANS 3:14-21
SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in
heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant
you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that
Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in
love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and
length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses
knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ
Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Read the entire passage a few times.
You can listen to it or read it out loud.

PART 2: OBSERVATION; EPISTLE | WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Circumstances What is the context of the passage, and what questions or tensions is the author addressing?	**Terms** What theological terms are being used or highlighted, and what do they mean?
Themes What is the overall theme of the passages, and are there sub themes as well? Are there other passages in Scripture that address similar themes?	**Causality** What are the causes and connections that show cause or intention? What are the arguments that are being argued for or against; why?

Q: What questions do you have after observing the themes, terms, and concept relationships in this passage?
Remember, every observation can be turned into a question.

PART 3: INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the author write this?

1. How does the text and other Scriptures you know of answer your questions?
Consult maps, Bible handbooks, commentaries, concordances,
and study Bible notes as necessary to learn about places, customs and people.

2. Write down any other notes, thoughts, or things you learned from this passage.

Summarize this passage in one sentence. What is the main idea or intent? What would you title this passage?

PART 4: APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD THE TRUTHS OF THIS TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What is your response to this passage?

2. Are there examples of things you want to follow or avoid?

3. Does this passage change the way you view God?

4. Is there a truth you want to thank God for or follow?

5. Pray that God would help you apply these words and truths.

PART 5: DISCUSS IN COMMUNITY

Gather with your group or a few friends and discuss what you learned.
Listen to what others learned and ask each other questions.

MID SERIES WRAP-UP

Take some time to reflect on the things God taught you as you studied the first half of Ephesians. What has stood out or helped shape your understanding of who God is, what He has done, and what He calls us to?

1. What are the overarching themes found in these passages?
   What New/Old Testament passages also reflect these themes?

2. What are some important things God is teaching you?

3. Reflect on your application worksheets. How will you work on applying what you entered there?

4. How is Jesus connected to these themes?