

One

A Study of the Letter
to the Ephesians

Mandy Mobley

Faithful Home
Bible Studies

One: A Study of the Letter to the Ephesians
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Meet the Author



MANDY MOBLEY is a wife, mother, writer, and speaker. She is passionate about deeply knowing God through His Word. Her desire is to honor God through teaching women how to know the Word and live the Word.

Mandy is the founder of Faithful Home Bible Studies and the author of several Bible studies.

She and her husband live in Arkansas where he is the youth minister for their church. They have two sweet children who love to laugh and hang out together.

Connect with her at FaithfulHomeBibileStudies.com.

About This Study

The letter to the Ephesians has a special place in my heart. This letter was the subject of one of the first lessons I taught in a women's speaking class that I took in college. As part of the assignment, I was required to research and learn the background and context of the passage. That was the beginning of Bible study for me. Not only did I want to know as much as could about this ancient city and its people, the desire was planted in me to know more about all the places of the Bible that I studied. When we know the history of the people we study, we can better understand their writings. Sayings and words that we would normally pass over, stand out and have deeper meaning. We are able to understand people of the Bible better when we know more of who they are. My prayer is that through this study you will have a better understanding of the people of Ephesus and the writer, Paul, so that you can gain greater wisdom from the letter to the Ephesians.

This 8-week Bible study is organized into group sessions and homework days. During the homework portions, you will read a chapter or a passage from the Bible, summarize the chapter, answer questions, and hand-write the letter to the Ephesians. Through your study of this letter, you will see Paul's love for this church, his exhortation for them to live like Christ, and the important role individuals play in the unity of the church. Paul encourages the people of Ephesus and us today to be one just as Christ prayed during His ministry "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Writing a Summary

Writing a summary is a task that helps us understand the overall message of a chapter or book of the Bible. A summary gives us a lense through which to view the details and helps these details keep their true meaning. Without a summary, a verse can easily be taken out of context and be twisted to mean something it was never intended to mean. The goal is to write one or two sentences about the main idea or events that happened in the chapter.

The Questions

This Bible study was written with the intention of giving less of my opinion and more of God's. For that reason, there are lots of questions. You might know the answers to all of them. Some might be more challenging, but all are written with your spiritual growth in mind. My

hope is that this study furthers your knowledge of God's Word, who He is, and what He wants for you and His church.

As you read and study a few questions may require some research. Don't let that hinder you. Google it. Read several of the search results and discuss your findings with your group. What you find might totally miss the mark. That's ok! That's why God gave us the church: to help each other. This process will lead to more confidence in your own studies and develop the necessary skills needed to discern what God says.

Writing the Letter to the Ephesians

About a year ago, a young lady in our youth group mentioned that one of her goals was to write the entire Bible by hand. What a wonderful aspiration! I loved her idea so much that I began to think about how I could do the same thing.

When I wrote this letter of the Bible, I noticed myself paying attention more to the words of God and seeing things in Scripture that I had not noticed before, which caused me to look up more information and look deeper into Paul's letter. I want to encourage you to write out the Letter to the Ephesians. See what God shows you as you write and pay attention to every word that Paul wrote.

Pages have been provided in the back of this book for you write the letter. You might also choose to write it on notebook paper and store it in a binder. As you write, you can leave the verse numbers in or leave them out. However you decide to write the letter, I know you will be blessed by the wisdom that God shows you.

Prayer

If you're like me, sometimes I forget to pray before I study. So to help all of us, each day of the homework begins with prayer time. Starting with prayer puts us in a position of submission to God and what He has to say in His Word. Praying calms our mind and helps us give our struggles and hurts to God. This designated time of prayer allows us the opportunity to bring others before the throne of God and focus on the needs of others. Make this prayer time what you need it to be. Pray aloud or in your mind.

Write your prayers in a journal or in the margin of this book. Pray on your knees or sitting on your couch. This time is meant to be a personal conversation between you and God.

Helpful Study Tools:

- A study bible will be helpful for giving introductory information and additional reference material.
- A Bible dictionary is useful for defining words in a biblical context.
- A Bible Handbook is a good reference for additional historical information about each book of the Bible.
- Two or three translations of the Bible may also be helpful in understanding the meaning of the text.

Ways to Use This Study

- *Individually*- Set aside a time each day to pray, read God's Word, and write what you have learned.
- *Study with a friend*- Set aside a time each day just as you would individually but also decide on a time to check in with a friend each week so that you can encourage one another as you study. Having a partner can help you keep on track.
- *Group study*- As a group study, this book can be used as a 6-week study by studying and discussing 5 days of material at a time. Studying as a group can give great insight to the Word of God.
- *Homeschool curriculum*- This could be used for 6th grade and up. It's a great way for children to see who they are in Christ, how to act as Christ did, and move toward the unity of the church.

Study Options

Getting together with a group of women to study the Word of God is one of my most favorite things to do. Digging into Scripture, asking the hard questions, reflecting on our own lives, and praying for one another are blessings that make us stronger Christians and a stronger Church. My prayer is that your study time with your group is just as rewarding.

Because we are all in different stages of life, I've provide different options to help anyone study God's Word.

Option 1: Group Sessions only

Make a commitment to show up every week and participate in the group sessions. This encourages not only you but the other women in your group. Even if you were not able to read for that week, you will hear Scripture as you talk and study together. Community in Bible study is an essential part of learning God's Word.

Option 2: Group Sessions and Bible Reading

Along with attending the group sessions, you will read the chapters and passages for each week. This will give you more background knowledge so that you can participate more in the discussion. A list of readings for each week is on page 8 and may be copied for those who choose option 2.

Option 3: Group Sessions and Homework

For this option, you will attend the group sessions and do the homework for each of the four days. This will help you be fully prepared to answer the group session questions.

Option 4: Group Sessions, Homework, and Writing Ephesians

If you choose option 4, you will attend the group session, do the homework, and have the blessing of writing each word of the letter to the Ephesians. Each day of the homework will direct you to write a passage of Ephesians so that writing the letter will be manageable. You will also find space for writing the letter starting on page 97. Choosing this option will allow you to read through Ephesians four times by the end of the study.

As you and your group study God's Word together, you may come across passages you don't quite understand. This is an opportunity for you to think about what God is saying in His Word and write some questions that you have about the text. During your group sessions, discuss your thoughts and questions with the other ladies. You may find that you were right on target or that everyone else struggled with same passages too. Not having all the answers is a good thing. It keeps us digging for more. Asking questions and discussing Scripture helps everyone to have a deeper understand of God's Word and of God Himself.

week 1

Group Session

Introduction

In this first session, take a few minutes to get to know each others' names and little about each other.

Prayer Requests

Each group session will start with prayer. This is space is for prayer requests so that everyone in the group can be praying for each other all week. After prayer requests have been said, pray together during your group sessions.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of the letter to the Ephesians, what comes to mind?
2. What do you remember about Paul, the apostle?
3. What do you know about the city of Ephesus?
4. How often do you pray? What helps you pray? What hinders you from praying?
5. What do you hope to learn from this study?
6. What is one way your group can encourage each other as you all study together?

Day 2

Paul Returns to Ephesus

Pray and then read Acts 19:1 through Acts 20:1.

1. On the map from Day 1, continue the green line from Antioch in Pisidia to Ephesus.

2. What did Paul ask the disciples in Ephesus? (verse 2)

3. What do verses 2-7 say about baptism and the Holy Spirit?

4. And he entered the _____ and for _____

spoke boldly, _____ and _____

them about the kingdom of God. (verse 8)

5. Why did Paul withdraw from the synagogue? (verse 9) What can you learn from Paul in this situation?

6. What is the hall of Tyrannus? (verse 9)

7. Compare the synagogue and the hall of Tyrannus. (verses 8-10)

	the Synagogue	the hall of Tyrannus
What kind of people would have gone to each place?		
What would have been taught there?		
Why did Paul teach there?		

8. Who heard the word of the Lord? How many heard it? (verse 10)

9. What miracles did God do through Paul? (verses 11-12)

10. Who else tried to perform miracles? What happened? (verses 13-17)

11. What can you learn about how God can use people like those Jewish men?

12. Why was Demetrius angry? What did he do? (verses 23-28)

Day 3

The Letter to the Ephesians

Pray and then look at the letter to the Ephesians.

1. Who wrote the letter to the Ephesians? (Ephesians 1:1)
2. To whom was it written? (Ephesians 1:1, Ephesians 3:1)
3. When did he write it?
4. What were his circumstances when he wrote it? Read Acts 28.
5. Think about: Why did he write this letter? Don't answer this one now. We will come back to it.

Paul, the author of the letter to the Ephesians, often calls himself an apostle, although he was not one of the original apostles. Jesus Himself chose Paul (whose name used to be Saul) to be His apostle to the Gentiles. Paul would not have been anyone's first pick. He was a Roman citizen and a leader among the Jews who did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He had the job of imprisoning anyone who believed in Jesus. Yet, Jesus stopped Paul in his tracks, and Paul completely changed everything he was doing (Acts 9). He was no longer hunting Christians but encouraging them to be bold and stand firm. Once the persecutor, Paul became the persecuted all because he now believed in Jesus and His resurrection.

After Paul became a Christian, he immediately started proclaiming Jesus (Acts 9:20), and of course, the Christians had a hard time believing him. He was known throughout the entire land as the one who killed Christians, so people thought it must have been a trick. However, with the help of the Holy

Day 3

All Together

Pray and then read Ephesians 2:11-19.

1. Who are "the uncircumcision"? Who are the "circumcision"? Why do you think Paul calls them that? (verse 11)
2. How does Paul describe "the uncircumcision"? (verse 12)
3. What does "far off" and "brought near" mean? What do those phrases have to do with the uncircumcision and circumcision? (verse 13)

one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father... One

In a world full of division, how can we as Christians come together to live as one?

The church in Ephesus struggled with the same question. Paul's letter addresses the issues that were causing divisions among the body of believers to help them build up the body of Christ. Our struggles are no different today. So, what can we learn from the wisdom that Paul shared with the Ephesians two thousand years ago?

Join me in this 8-week study to:

- Learn the history of the church and the people in Ephesus.
- Read and write the letter to the Ephesians.
- Discover who we are as members of Christ's body.
- Apply Paul's teachings to our walk with Christ so that we may live in unity with Christ and with the Church.

One: A Study of the Letter to the Ephesians can be used for:

- Group study
- Individual study
- Homeschool curriculum

A Leader's Guide is included to you facilitate your small group ladies' Bible study.

Mandy Mobley is a wife, mother, speaker, and the founder of Faithful Home Bible Studies. She is also the author of *Growing Fruit: A Study of the Fruit of the Spirit*. You can connect with her and find more of her books at faithfulhomebiblestudies.com.

