

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Ephesians as a letter to the church in Ephesus. He wanted to remind them of the great blessings that come with being “in Christ” and help the church remember the good and beautiful works of God and His purposes in the world. As we study Ephesians, we will remember the Gospel as the good story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We, too, receive great blessing by being in Christ and because of what He has done for us, everything changes.

*New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips for this week:*

- Set aside time each day to work through your devotional – schedule it if you need to! Spend time sitting quietly and open in prayer to settle yourself. Read the passage and reread it as many times as you need. Contemplate and answer the questions as they are helpful.
- Ask yourself, what about this passage is like what I already believe? What might I need to remember? What might God be calling my attention to? What is here that I might need to rediscover or reimagine?
- Try to recollect your devotional time throughout your day, sharing your experiences with family and friends if you’re able, to continue the process.

### **Monday, August 19th**

Read Ephesians 1:1-10

Already in verse one, Paul emphasizes being “in Christ”. What do you think it means to be in Christ? What does Paul say about being in Christ?

In verse 3, why do you think it matters that we know and understand our position in heavenly places? What would that perspective change about the way you live your life?

What impact does being chosen by God (v. 4) have on you?

Why do we need Jesus, to be in Him, in order to receive redemption and forgiveness (v.7)?

What does it mean for the mystery of God’s will to be made known (v. 9)? How have you come to understand God’s purposes in the world and in your life?

What do you think it will look like for all things to be united in Christ (v.10) What are you rediscovering or reimaging about what it looks like to be in Christ?

### **Tuesday, August 20th**

Read Ephesians 1:11-14

As a follower of Jesus, what inheritance have you been given (v.11)?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?

How does the Holy Spirit seal the promise of our inheritance (v. 13-14)?

What would you like to rediscover about the Holy Spirit?

Spend time in prayer, asking God to increase your awareness of the Holy Spirit so that you can continually live in the promised hope of your inheritance.

### **Wednesday, August 21st**

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Why do you think verse 15 links faith and love together?

What does Paul model for us about prayer in this passage? Is there anything you’d like to replicate in your own life?

What hope have you experienced in Christ (v. 18)? Where might God be showing you more hope to discover? What would it take to encounter that?

What do we learn about God’s power in this passage? How have you experienced God’s power in your life? Where might your life need God’s power?

**Thursday, August 22nd**

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

What did your life look like before you were following Jesus? In what ways were you “dead”? How were you following the course of this world (v.2) and what impact did that have on your life?

The “prince of the power of the air” is referring to the enemy. Do you think the enemy was working in your life even before you started following Jesus? How does that change your perspective of that time of your life?

Verses 4-10 might be some of the most beautiful lines in all of Scripture – what impact do they have on you? In what ways does your life honor this reality? Spend some time praising God for His gifts.

Verse 10 says you are created with a very specific purpose. What might you need to rediscover or reimagine in order to live out your faith fully?

**Friday, August 23rd**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

Circumcision was used as a physical sign to show that you were one of God’s people – only the Jews were given this identification. But once Jesus came for all people, it meant anyone could become one of God’s people. Is there anyone you’ve thought was “too far gone” or “could never follow Jesus”? What does this passage say in response to that?

Our culture is full of divisions – class, ethnicity, political party, occupation... you can build a dividing wall of hostility anywhere. Where are you tempted to build dividing walls?

If part of Jesus’ purpose was to abolish dividing walls of hostility, what does that say about the way we live our lives? How can you be part of sharing the good news so that all people have access to no longer be strangers, but fellow citizens in Christ?

REDISCOVER / REIMAGINE  
**GOSPEL**

*DEVO | August 17/18*