

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson One - "O-I-A" Method of Bible Study

OBSERVATION- "WHAT DO I SEE?"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Look for: ◀ Key words ◀ Contrasts/Comparisons ◀ Cause & Effect
 ◀ Purpose Words ◀ Kinds of statements

Ask Questions: ◀ Who? ◀ Where? ◀ What?
 ◀ When? ◀ Why? ◀ How?

Practice: List ten observations from John 3:16:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - "WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"

Context - What precedes and follows this verse or passage?

Word or phrase meanings - Define and explain key words or phrases.

Cross references - Other verses or passages that shed light on this verse (use of concordance).

What is the single, primary meaning of this passage? (Many applications, one

interpretation)

Write the truth of the passage in the form of a principle. A principle is a succinct statement of a universal truth. A principle derived from John 3:16 is “God’s love that saves perishing sinners is found only in His Son, Jesus Christ.”

Theology - What theological issues does this passage address? (Areas of theology include: Bibliology, Theology proper, Christology, Pneumatology, Angelology, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology).

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

Howard Hendricks: “Observation plus interpretation without application equals abortion.... The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity; it was written to transform your life.” See James 1:22

Spheres of application: personal, family, church, employment, community, the world.

Questions: Is there a Promise? Command? Sin? Example? Condition? Warning? Prayer? Problem to be solved?

What changes do I need to make in my...

Knowledge?

Attitude?

Behavior?

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Lesson two - Ephesians 1:1-3

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

How does Paul identify himself?

To whom is he writing?

How are they described?

What does he include in the salutation?

What word is repeated in vs. 3?

What kind of a statement is “who has blessed us?”

How does Paul describe our “blessing”?

How often is Christ referred to in these three verses?

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

Context: What do we know about Ephesus?

When did Paul write this?

What was his main purpose?

Meanings: What is an apostle?

What does the word “saint” mean?

What is the difference between “grace” and “peace”? What is their source? How do we receive them?

What does the word “blessed” (eulogetos) mean? Why does Paul want us to bless God?

How complete or extensive are God’s blessings to us?

Where are they found? How often in Ephesians is the phrase “in Christ” found? What significance does this have?

Cross references: Colossians 2:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:3

Other:

What is the one primary meaning of Ephesians 1:3?

The truth or principle of verse 3 _____

What theological issues does this passage address?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

What do you learn from the example of the apostle Paul in verse one?

What is the promise in verse three?

How does God want you to change in view of these verses?

WHAT CAN YOU WALK AWAY WITH FROM THIS PASSAGE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST?

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Lesson three - Ephesians 1:4-8

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

List all the action verbs:

What time element is referred to in verse 4?

What purpose or comparison words do you see?

How is Christ referred to in these verses?

What kind of statement is this?

What key words do you see?

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

How would you describe the context of this passage?

	<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>CROSS REFERENCES</u>
Chose (elected) -		Rom. 8:33; 1 Thess. 1:4 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:10
Foundation of the world -		2 Tim. 1:9; Rev. 13:8
Predestined -		Rom. 8:29-30; 9:23; 1 Cor. 2:7
Adoption -		Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:5-6

Redemption -

Rom. 3:24; Gal. 3:13;
1 Pet. 1:18; Rev. 5:9

His blood -

Heb. 9:14; 1 John 1:7

What is God's stated purpose in electing us in verse 4?

On what basis did He predestine us in verses 4-5?

What is God's ultimate objective in our salvation in verses 6 and 7?

What does the word "lavished" indicate to you in verse 8?

State the truth or principle of this passage in one sentence:

What theological issues does this passage clarify?

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

How do the truths of this passage affect your views toward:

God?

Christ?

The basis and certainty of your salvation?

The purpose of your life?

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Lesson Four - Ephesians 1:9-14

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

What has God revealed to us in verse 9?

What are the key words in verses 9-12?

What time element is referred to in verse 10

What is the cause and effect statement in verse 11?

What is the sequence of events described in verses 13-14?

How is the Holy Spirit described in verses 13-14?

What cause and effect does vs. 14 teach?

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

Context - This passage ends Paul’s lengthy doxology. What do verses 3 - 14 teach about the trinity?

What is the biblical definition of a mystery?

Explain the mystery that God has made known to us.

When will this “fullness of the times” take place?

What position has God determined for Christ to have in this universe?

What is the believer’s relationship to that position? See vss. 10-11.

What have you been predestined for according to vs. 11?

How does vs. 11 teach the absolute sovereignty of God? What is the difference between God’s “counsel” and God’s “will.”

How does God bring all these blessings to us according to verses 13-14?

Define the two works of the Spirit in these verses: sealed and pledge. What do these words mean in terms of your relationship to God?

Redemption in verse 14 is not looking back like verse 7 but forward. To what event is it referring?

Note all the times the word “praise” is used in this entire doxology. What does this tell you about God’s purpose in salvation?

Cross references - find cross references for the work of the Spirit in the book of Ephesians itself.

State the great truths of this passage in your own words in one or two principles:

What does this passage teach in the area of Christology? Pneumatology? God’s attributes?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

How does this passage change your view of God?

What promise in this section encourages you the most?

What part should praise have in your day to day living? How much do you actually praise God? List here definite reasons why you should be praising God more and more:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

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Lesson five - Ephesians 1:15-23

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

What motivated Paul to pray for these people (two spiritual graces).

What is the cause and effect in vs. 18-19a?

How does Paul describe the power available to believers in verse 19a?

List the truths about Christ given in verses 20-23:

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

What does Paul’s reference to the two spiritual graces in their lives teach us about genuine salvation? (vs. 15).

What is Paul’s greatest concern in this prayer according to verse 17? What does God have to give us in order for this to take place? What does this tell you about true spiritual understanding?

What are “the eyes of your heart”?

Paul prays that we might know three things in vss. 18-19a. Explain each of them and look up the cross references:

1. Hope of God’s calling -

Cross References

1 Peter 1:3

1 John 3:1-3

2. God's inheritance in the saints

Rom. 8:15-17
1 Peter 1:4-6

3. God's power toward us

2 Cor. 4:5-7
2 Cor. 12:9
Phil. 3:10-11

What is the connection between the believer's power and Christ's resurrection in vss. 19-20?

What words does Paul use to describe Christ's sovereignty in 20-23? How far-reaching is His sovereignty?

In view of Christ's position of universal sovereignty in verses 21-23, what does this mean for the church? How does Paul describe the church here?

What does God want His people to be aware of in view of this relationship to Christ?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

Based on this passage, how would you answer a person struggling with a sin problem who says, “I just can't help it. That's just the way I am.”

In a nut shell, how would you describe your position in Christ based on this chapter?

How does a good understanding of your identity in Christ help you deal with problems in your Christian life?

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Lesson six - Ephesians 2:1-3

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

Read verses 1-10 and write down a simple three-point outline of this passage:

I.

II.

III.

What words describe the unbeliever in vs. 1-3?

How does Paul describe the realm in which we all lived without Christ in vs. 2.

What comparison is given in vs. 3?

In view of Paul's purpose so far in Ephesians, what are the key words in these three verses?

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

Context: How do 1:21-22 contrast with 2:2? What is Paul's purpose in putting these two truths so close together?

Explain “dead” in verse one:

Define trespasses and sins. Is there any difference between the two?

Explain the two powers in verses 2-3 that dominate and control the unbeliever's life.

THE POWERS

HOW THEY WORK

Verse 2

Verse 3

These verses address the theological area call anthropology. How does this description of mankind differ from the world's anthropology? Put them in the form of a chart:

Biblical view of man:

World's view of man:

The theological phrase "total depravity" means -

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

How does this section affect your attitude and thoughts about...

Yourself -

Other people -

Satan -

Your sins and lusts -

God -

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Lesson seven - Ephesians 2:4-10

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

What is the big contrast in verse 4?

What are the key action verbs in the passage?

How is God described (His attributes)?

What is the purpose phrase in verse 7 and the explanation phrases in verses 8 & 10?

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

How does Paul emphasize the mercy, love, grace and kindness of God in this passage?

What does “made us alive” mean? What part did you have in this and what part did God have? Does this passage teach that our faith brings spiritual life, or that spiritual life brings the capacity to believe?

What will God show through us in the ever unfolding ages to come?

According to verse 8, what part of your salvation is the gift of God?
How does God's plan of salvation remove all possibility of boasting? (vs. 9)

How does vs. 10 describe you as a Christian?

What is God's purpose for your life in this world? What part do you play in this?

How does the teaching of this section contrast with much of religion today? On what basis do most people feel they will get to heaven?

How does 2:1-10 relate to chapter one? Summarize the teaching of both in a chart form:

Chapter One

2:1-10

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

What response do you have toward God in view of the teaching of this passage?

Can you think of several hymns that teach the glory of God's grace in salvation?

How has this passage changed your thinking about how God saves His people?

How could you use this passage to show someone God's way of saving people?

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Lesson eight - Ephesians 2:11-16

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

From here on in our study of Ephesians make your own observations. Remember to look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 11-16:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

Who are Gentiles and how does Paul describe them in vs. 11?

From verses 12-16, in chart form list everything that was true of you:

BEFORE CHRIST	and	IN CHRIST
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What brought us near in verse 13? Near to what?

Where is our peace with God found? What kind of peace is this? See Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:7. What is the difference between peace with God and the peace of God?

Verses 14 and 15 describe exactly what happened through Christ's work on the cross.

Explain each phrase in your own words:

He made both groups one:

He broke down the barrier of the dividing wall:

He abolished in His flesh the enmity (namely, the Law of commandments):

He in Himself made the two into one new man:

He established peace:

He reconciled them both in one body to God:

What further truths do Romans 5:10,11 and 2 Cor. 5:17-21 add to your understanding of reconciliation?

In one brief statement, what is God telling you in this section?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

Without being overly concerned about a point in time of your conversion, can you look back and describe your life “Before Christ” and in “In Christ”?

Paul focuses our attention on Christ and the cross, not on our own feelings and behavior, as he explains how we have peace with God. How can you use this to encourage a doubting believer who feels discouraged and uncertain of their salvation?

What kind of heart attitude do (or should) you have toward Christ and toward others in Christ's body as you walk away from this passage?

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Lesson nine - Ephesians 2:17-22

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 17-22:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

Discover the Old Testament source and the context of vs. 17.

How does vs. 18 teach the trinity and what is the role of each of the three person of the Godhead in this verse?

What does the word “access” mean in your Christian life? Cross references: Romans 5:2; Heb. 4:16; 10:19-22.

Verse 19 - What were you and what are you now? What privileges do you now have?
I WAS **I AM**

Verses 20-22 Here we have the most explicit teaching on the nature of the church. What

does each aspect of the building represent? What is the significance of each for the church?

The foundation:

The Corner Stone:

The whole building being fitted together:

Growing into a holy temple in the Lord:

Being built together into a dwelling of God:

In the Spirit:

Verse 20 - If the foundation of the church is the apostles and prophets, would we still have apostles and prophets today? Is God still building the foundation or are we in the superstructure? What does this tell us about apostolic gifts for today? See 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4)

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

What is the most encouraging promise for you in this passage?

What is the most powerful truth about the church according to this passage?

What do you think is Paul’s major purpose in the section from verse 11 to 22?

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Lesson ten - Ephesians 3:1-13

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 1-13:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

How does Paul describe his imprisonment? Why?

What does “the stewardship of God’s grace” mean for Paul?

What is a biblical mystery? Paul uses the word mystery five times in Ephesians and four times in Colossians. Find them.

Mystery in Ephesians:	Mystery in Colossians:
1:9	1:26
3:3	1:27
3:4	2:2
3:9	4:3
5:32	
6:19	

According to verse 5, what is especially significant about this mystery?

According to verse 6, what is the mystery that was revealed to Paul and other New Testament apostles and prophets?

What attitude does Paul reflect in view of God's calling him to be a minister of this mystery in verses 7-8?

What are some of the "unfathomable riches of Christ" that Paul proclaimed?

What is God making known through the church? To whom? Why?

What does verse 11 declare to be God's great plan for the world/universe?

What privilege does Paul focus on in verse 12? What did he keep firmly in his mind as he endured all the trials and tribulations for Christ (vs. 13)?

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

How should the truths in these verses affect your thoughts and attitudes toward: God?

The apostles' ministry?

The Church?

Christ?

Your purpose as a believer in this world?

Your trials?

Select one truth that you will share with someone from this passage this week.

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Lesson eleven - Ephesians 3:14-21

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 14-21:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

What brings Paul to his knees? What emotions is he feeling as he prays to the Father?

In what sense is God the Father of all men? (vss. 14-15)

Give titles to the three parts of Paul’s most spiritually-packed prayer anywhere. Note how the three persons of the Godhead are emphasized in each part:

	Title:	Person of the Godhead:
vss. 14-16		
vss. 17-19		
vss. 20-21		

What is the ministry of the Spirit in vs. 16? What kind of power is this?

What is the “inner man”? See 2 Cor. 4:16-18

vs. 17 What is the consequence of being strengthened with this power? How do you know if this is a reality in your own life?

vss. 17-18 How does Paul describe the love of Christ?

vs. 19 What is the connection between being knowing Christ's love and being filled with God's fullness?

vs. 20 How does Paul emphasize the sufficiency of God's power in our lives? See 2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:11; 1:29; 2 Tim. 1:7; 3:5; 2 Pet. 1:3.

vs. 21 What is the ultimate goal or objective of all of God's work through Christ and His church? Where have you seen this goal expressed before in Ephesians?

Thinking back over Ephesians 1-3, what major truths has Paul emphasized?

What teachings do you find in these chapters that correct some of the heretical teachings of our own day?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

Paul's prayer gives us a fantastic pattern to pray for our own spiritual lives as well as others. How does this prayer contrast to much praying most of us do? Take time to pray for everyone in your small group along the lines of this passage.

How does this passage answer common complaints such as:

1. I can't help it. That's just the way I am.
2. Nobody really cares about me.
3. I have no real purpose in life.
4. God seems so far away.
5. I'm a Christian but I just don't feel God in my life. I feel like I need something more.

As you face a heavy trial or the unknown future, what thoughts should fill your heart after studying this prayer? How can you use this prayer to help another believer? An unbeliever?

Memorize Ephesians 3:20-21.

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Lesson twelve - Ephesians 4:1-10

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 1-10:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Chapter four begins the second major section of Ephesians. “Therefore” indicates a transition from the doctrinal to the practical (“wealth” to “walk”) part of this letter. Why is it important to understand the doctrines of Ephesians as we study the practical aspects of our relationship with Christ?

2. How does Paul describe himself and what verb does he use in verse 1? Why?

3. How does your calling influence your desire to have a worthy walk? What does “worthy” mean in vs. 1? See Colossians 2:6-7.

4. Give explanations of each of these attitudes along with their opposites:

Humility (1 Peter 5:5-6)-

Opposite:

Gentleness (Matt. 5:5) -

Opposite:

Patience (Romans 12:19-21) -

Opposite:

Forbearance (Col. 3:13) -

Opposite:

Love (1 John 3:16-18) -

Opposite:

Diligence (2 Pet. 3:14) -

Opposite:

Peace (Rom. 14:19) -

Opposite:

5. What is the difference between the ecumenical unity between church denominations and the “unity of the Spirit” that Paul speaks of in verse 3?

6. Paul is emphasizing the unity of our faith in verses 4-6. How did this relate to that early church?

7. What does verse 7 assure you of? What does 1 Peter 4:10-11 add to this teaching?

8. Paul’s use of Psalm 68:18 emphasizes two aspects of Christ’s work -- humiliation through His incarnation and death on the cross and then His victory through His ascension to God’s right hand. How does this relate to the church and especially our spiritual gifts?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

1. How do you demonstrate in a practical way your understanding of your high calling in Jesus Christ?

2. Which of the seven attitude qualities are you most in need of right now in your life? How are you demonstrating a spirit of humility in your relationships with others?

3. What does Christ call you to do when you have conflict with another person in the body? How can you reestablish peace? (See Matt. 5:23-25)

4. What kinds of divisions between people does Christ remove through the gospel in our day?

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Lesson thirteen - Ephesians 4:11-16

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 11-16:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Christ’s position in verse 10 emphasizes His victory and sovereign authority. Why does Paul call attention to His position as he teaches on the giving of gifts for His body?

2. While there are many more spiritual gifts, what category of gifts is Paul dealing with in this passage?

3. Explain the function of each gift from Christ to His church:

Apostle -

Prophet -

Evangelist -

Pastor-Teacher -

(Often in the Greek when two nouns are preceded by one article and joined by “and”, the reference is not distinguishing two separate things, but two titles of one thing, in this case “pastor who are teachers or pastor-teachers”. See 1 Timothy 5:17)

4. Explain the two purposes of these gifts in the church:

For the equipping of the saints --

For the work of service --

5. Explain the results of these ministries in verses 13-15

The unity of the faith --

The knowledge of the Son of God --

A mature man --

The measure of the fullness of Christ --

No longer children --

Speaking the truth in love --

Grow up into Him --

6. To what does “each individual part” refer? Explain the importance of each part.

7. What causes the body of Christ to grow? How do you know if a church is growing according to verse 16?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

1. If Christ has given gifts to His body to equip each member for serving, what is your responsibility in the body of Christ? What is the proper motivation for every believer to grow and serve in the body?

2. To what degree are you involved in growing in the knowledge of Christ? How does this take place during the worship service? In small groups? In your own personal Bible study and time with the Lord? Are you satisfied with where you are?

3. What is the difference between speaking truth and speaking truth in love (vs. 15)? Give an example of each. Which do you practice in your life?

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Lesson fourteen - Ephesians 4:17-24

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 17-24:

1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5. 10.

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. In vs. 17a, on what basis does Paul tell us that our practical lives must be radically different from the lost man's? What is to motivate our distinctness from the unsaved?

2. From vss. 17-19 list characteristics of the lost man's practical life and give a definition or example of each one:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOST MAN	EXPLANATIONS / EXAMPLES
---------------------------------	-------------------------

3. What is the progress of thought in verses 17-19 as Paul describes the lost man?

4. How does Paul emphasize your personal relationship with Christ in vss. 20? How is this different from just morality or stoicism or even religion?

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Lesson fifteen - Ephesians 4:25-32

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 25-32:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. What is the “therefore” in vs. 25 there for?
2. Sanctification is that process of daily putting off sinful behavior and replacing it with godly behavior from the right motive. Go through this passage and list every PUT ON and PUT OFF and then beside it, the motive Paul appeals to for giving that command:

PUT OFF	PUT ON	THE REASON / MOTIVE
vs. 25		

vss. 26-27

vs. 28

vs. 29-30

vs. 31

vs. 32

3. vs. 25 - How does being honest have to do with being members of one another?
4. vs. 26 - What does Paul mean by not allowing the sun to set on your wrath?
5. vs. 27 - How does Satan get an opportunity through unresolved conflict?
6. vs. 28 - God doesn't expect a thief to simply stop stealing or even to start earning his own money. What does God want him to learn to do?
7. vs. 29 - What are the three characteristics of godly speech given here?
8. vs. 30 - In this context, how do believers easily grieve God's Spirit?
9. vs. 31 - Give a good definition or example of the six "rotten eggs":
10. vs. 32 Why does God expect every believer to have a forgiving spirit? How much does God expect us to forgive? How quickly? Compare this with Matt. 18:21-35

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

This is a very helpful passage for our personal lives, our marriages, our family, and other interpersonal relationships. Let's just respond to each area God mentions here:

1. Are you honest in your relationships with others? When are you most tempted to either lie outright or give a false impression?
2. Are you in control of your anger? Do you resolve problems with others quickly, or do you go to bed with lots of unresolved conflicts still stewing in your heart?
3. Are you engaged in any dishonesty at work? Do you willingly give to others when there is a need? Or are you selfish with your time and labors?
4. How have you hurt others with your words lately? Do you see how that grieves God's Spirit? Is there anyone from whom you need to seek forgiveness because of your mouth?
5. Do you hide a bitter spirit behind the excuses of being "hurt" or "offended" or "not appreciated"? To whom do you need to grant forgiveness in your life right now?

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Lesson sixteen - Ephesians 5:1-10

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 1-10:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Again (!), what is the “therefore” there for?
2. vs. 1 In what sense could we possibly be imitators of God? The Greek word is “mimetai”.
3. vs. 2 What does Paul give us as the standard for walking in love?
4. vss. 3-4 List and explain these sinful habits. How are they the opposite of genuine biblical love? What is the focus of walking in love vs. practicing these things?
5. vs. 5 What does Paul say we know with certainty? What is the difference between the people described in verse 5 and genuine believers who still sin at times?

Cross references:

What is an idolater according to verse 5?

6. vs. 6. What do some people try to deceive themselves and others about? What do you know about the wrath of God in the New Testament? Look up cross references.

7. vs. 7-8 In what sense does Paul mean we should not be partakers with people who engage in these behaviors? How do you balance this with 1 Cor. 5:9-11?

8. vs. 8 What is the reason for separating from these kinds of people?

9. vss. 9-10 What does it mean to walk as children of light? How does “light” help you understand your Christian life better?

10. vs. 10 Look up the following cross references:

John 8:29 -

2 Cor. 5:9 -

Col. 1:10 -

11. This passage again gives us attitudes and habits to put off and put on and the reasons or motives for obedience. List them:

PUT OFF

PUT ON

MOTIVES

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

1. Are any of these sinful attitudes and behaviors evident in your life right now? Vs. 3 says these things should not even be named among us. What should a Christian do who finds him or herself being drawn toward these things? How does Eph. 5:2 help?

2. Can you honestly say your greatest desire in your life is to be pleasing to God (vs. 10)? How do you figure out what is pleasing to God?

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson seventeen - Ephesians 5:11-21

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 11-21:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. vss. 11-12 List the three responsibilities we have toward evil in this world.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

How are believers to expose the deeds of darkness in practical ways?

2. vss. 13-14 In what sense do these secret evil things done by wicked people become visible? What does vs. 14 have to do with exposing evil deeds in this world?

3. vss. 15-18 List the series of three contrasts in these verses:

DON'T...

BE DO...

4. vs. 16 This verse literally commands us to “redeem the time.” What exactly does this

mean? How does this help us deal with evil days?

5. vs. 18 What is the comparison between drunkenness and being filled with the Spirit.

6. vss. 19-21 List the effects of being filled with the Spirit in these verses:

7. vs. 19 What part does music play in a Christian's life?

8. vs. 20 How extensive does God want our thanks to be?

9. vs. 21 When people are filled with God's Spirit, what attitude will prevail among them and between them?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

1. How does vs. 11 apply to relationships in business, in marriage, in common endeavors?

2. Based on vss. 15-16, how are you using your time? How much time do you invest in the kingdom of God? What activities in your life would Christ say are not worthy of your time in this short life span?

3. Does your life reflect the Spirit-filled life described in verses 19-21? Let's do some evaluation:

- ◆ Vs. 19 speaks of bringing joy and singing wherever you go. Do you bring a joyful, happy spirit with you as you meet others?
- ◆ Vs. 20 speaks of being thankful. Do you openly give thanks to God and others for all the blessings of your life?
- ◆ Vs. 21 speaks of a spirit of unity with other believers. Do you find it easy to work and live with other believers, even when you don't necessarily agree with them?

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson eighteen - Ephesians 5:22-33

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 22-33:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Our “walk” in Christ has taken us from developing godly attitudes (4:1-3) to our speech and personal purity all the way to Spirit-filled hearts of gratitude and submission (5:19-21). Now we focus on key relationships in our lives. Looking over 5:22-6:9, list the three key relationships God says we need to be especially concerned about:

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1) | 2) | 3) |
|----|----|----|

2. Discover the wife’s responsibilities in marriage and the comparisons or motives God gives to help her understand her role:

RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPARISONS/MOTIVES

vs. 22

vs. 24

vs. 33

3. Discover the husband’s responsibilities in marriage and the comparisons God gives to help him understand his role:

RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPARISONS/MOTIVES

vs. 23

vs. 25

vs. 28

vs. 29

vs. 33

4. What is a biblical definition of submission? How does this differ from the world's view of "submission"? See 1 Cor. 11:3

5. In what sense is the church to be subject to Christ? Are there any limits to a wife's responsibility to submit to her husband? Explain.

6. According to verse 33, what is a wife's attitude to be toward her husband?

7. Back to the husbands, what responsibility goes with being the "head" of the wife? What does Christ do for the church as her head?

8. How does Christ demonstrate love for the church (vss. 25-27)? How does a husband practice this kind of love toward his wife?

9. How does God say a husband should love his wife in vss. 28-29,33? Why?

10. In what way is the marriage relationship a reflection of Christ and the church according to vss. 30-32?

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

Give five examples of how a wife should show godly submission and respect to her husband?

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | |

Give five examples of how a husband should demonstrate Christ-like love to his wife? 1)

- | | |
|----|----|
| | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | |

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson nineteen - Ephesians 6:1-9

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 1-9:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Vs. 1 What is a child’s first responsibility to his or her parents? What reason does God give in this verse?
2. Vs. 2 What is the difference between honoring and obeying?
Honoring means _____
Obeying means _____
3. Vss. 2-3 What promise does God give to children who honor and obey their parents?

Cross references: Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2; Prov. 15:20; Prov. 23:15-16; Deu 21:18-21

4. Vs. 4 What is the first (negative) command God gives to fathers? Why? See Col. 3:21 for more insight into this problem. List ways fathers tend to offend this command:
5. What are the two positive responsibilities of fathers (and mothers)? What is the difference?
6. Vss. 5-8 How should a Christian employee’s responsibility to his employer reflect his

relationship to Christ in these verse?

Vs. 5 He should _____ as to _____

Vs. 6 He should _____ as _____

Vs. 7 He should _____ as to _____

Vs. 8 He should _____ knowing _____

7. How are employees often guilty of the prohibitions in vs. 6?

8. Vs. 9 What attitude does God tell employers to give up? What reasons does He give?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

Listen up, all you younger folks: Can you honestly say that your parents are happy with your attitudes and behavior? ALWAYS NEVER USUALLY SELDOM

In what three specific, practical “around the house” areas could you change to show them more honor?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

OK, parents: Can you honestly say that you treat your children with love and self-control and not provoking them to anger? ALWAYS NEVER USUALLY SELDOM

In what three specific, practical ways could you change to encourage them rather than to discourage them?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Employees, your turn: In what specific ways could you honor Christ more as you work with lost people day in and day out?

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson twenty - Ephesians 6:10-13

OBSERVATION- "WHAT DO I SEE?"

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 10-13:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - "WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"

1. How does this section beginning with "Finally..." fit into this letter to the Ephesians?
2. vs. 10 Where is the source of our strength? What does this imply about our own human strength? How available is this God-given strength for us? How do we tap into it?

Check out these cross references on God's strength for His people:

Deu 31:6 "Be strong.....for _____."

Josh 1:9 " _____? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for _____."

Psa 27:14 _____; Be strong, and let your heart take courage.

Psa 31:24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, All you who _____.

1 Cor 16:13 _____, be strong.

2 Tim 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong _____.

3. Vs. 11 What will God's full armor enable you to do?
4. Vs. 11 What does the phrase "schemes of the devil" tell you about Satan's activity in this world today?
5. Vs. 12 We are not struggling against flesh and blood. How does this truth help you as you think about all the evil in this world? How did Jesus deal with wicked people? See 1 Peter 2:21-25.
6. Vs. 12 Who are we wrestling against?
7. Vs. 13 What is this "therefore" there for?
8. Vs. 13 What is the one command to us in this verse? Is this something every believer is called to do or only a select few? Explain.
9. Vs. 13 What is the promised result if we obey that one simple command?
10. Vs. 13 Is "the evil day" a specific day or a general reference to every day in this world? Explain.
11. Vs. 13 What is the final position we should take in our warfare against Satan and his hosts? What would be the opposite of this?

APPLICATION – "HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?"

1. Do you know how to find strength in the Lord? What specific things do you do to experience the Lord's strength?
2. In what ways have you been influenced by Satan's schemes?
3. In view of the "spiritual warfare" fad of the 1990's, what are some methods of dealing with Satan and his demons that Paul does not mention in this entire passage?

Ephesians Study Guide

Lesson twenty-two - Ephesians 6:14-24

OBSERVATION- “WHAT DO I SEE?”

Look for key words, contrasts and comparisons, purpose and result words, ask the who? what? where? when? how? questions and any other observations. List 10 observations from verses 14-24:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

INTERPRETATION - “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

1. Paul uses the armor of a soldier to represent our spiritual strength for standing firm against Satan. Fill in this chart for each of the six pieces of equipment.

ANALOGY	REALITY	MEANING
1. Girded your loins (belt)	Truth	Basic commitment to God’s authority
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
2. vs. 16 How do you “take up” the shield of faith? What illustrations from the Old Testament can you think of in which God’s person did this?		
3. vs. 16 What do you think Paul is thinking of when he describes Satan’s work as “flaming missiles?” See Matt. 8:26; 9:2; 14:31; 16:8; Luke 12:28; 22:31-32; 24:25-26; John 20:29.		
4. How does faith extinguish these “flaming missiles?” (Read Bunyan’s episode of Christian in Doubting Castle again).		

5. vs. 17 In what sense is the Word of God like a sword? Look up the Greek word for “sword” used here. How is it different than the word used in Rev. 19:15. According to this verse, whose sword is it?

6. What does God teach us about prayer in vss. 18-20?



7. What was Paul’s main concern as he asks for prayer about his preaching? What would be several wrong concerns a preacher might have that Paul isn’t troubled about?

8. vss. 21-24 What final spiritual concerns did Paul express as he closes this wonderful epistle to the Ephesians?

APPLICATION – “HOW DOES IT APPLY TO MY LIFE?”

On a scale of 1 - 10, rate yourself in terms of your preparedness for standing firm in the spiritual warfare (10 being highly prepared):

- Commitment to truth 1-----10
- Practicing righteousness 1-----10
- Practicing the gospel of peace 1-----10
- Using the shield of faith 1-----10
- Confident in your salvation 1-----10
- Skilled with the Word of God 1-----10
- Praying in the Spirit 1-----10

What practical changes do you need to make to become a more effective soldier for Christ?

REVIEW:

What is the big outline of the book of Ephesians? _____

If you could proclaim one truth on CNN tonight that you have learned from Ephesians, what would it be?