

## Study Guide





# LifeLight Expands

LifeLight

Available NOW!

- |                          |                                    |               |                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| * The Bible: An Overview | * Proverbs                         | Luke, Pt. 1   | * Timothy/Titus/Philemon             |
| Genesis, Pt. 1           | * Ecclesiastes/<br>Song of Solomon | Luke, Pt. 2   | Galatians/Philippians/<br>Colossians |
| Genesis, Pt. 2           | Isaiah, Pt. 1                      | John, Pt. 1   | * Ephesians/<br>1 & 2 Thessalonians  |
| Exodus, Pt. 1            | Isaiah, Pt. 2                      | John, Pt. 2   | Hebrews                              |
| Exodus, Pt. 2            | Minor Prophets                     | Acts, Pt. 1   | * James/Jude                         |
| * Joshua                 | Daniel                             | Acts, Pt. 2   | * 1 & 2 Peter                        |
| * Judges                 | Matthew, Pt. 1                     | Romans, Pt. 1 | 1 John                               |
| * Ruth/Esther            | Matthew, Pt. 2                     | Romans, Pt. 2 | * Revelation                         |
| * Life of David          | Mark                               | 1 Corinthians |                                      |
| Selected Psalms          |                                    | 2 Corinthians |                                      |

## LifeLight Foundations

- |                          |                |           |              |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| * Prophecy               | * Miracles     | * Baptism | * Triune God |
| * Bible Feasts           | * Law & Gospel | * Worship | * Ministry   |
| * Creation, New Creation |                |           |              |

*\* all-new LifeLight material    \*\* does not include the Enrichment Magazine*

## LifeLight Release Schedule

### 2011 RELEASES

- |                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| * LifeLight—Job                | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Prayer | October |

### 2012 RELEASES

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| LifeLight—1, 2 & 3 John                               | January |
| * LifeLight—1 & 2 Samuel                              | April   |
| * LifeLight—Wilderness Wanderings<br>(Lv., Nu. & Dt.) | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Heaven & Hell                 | October |

### 2013 RELEASES

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| * LifeLight—Ezra/Nehemiah            | January |
| * LifeLight—1 & 2 Kings              | April   |
| * LifeLight—Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—Parables     | October |

### 2014 RELEASES

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| * LifeLight—Nahum/Habakkuk/Zephaniah | January |
| * LifeLight—1 & 2 Chronicles         | April   |
| * LifeLight—Hosea/Joel/Amos          | July    |
| * LifeLight Foundations—End Times    | October |

This helpful resource is available now:

Intro Kit

# We Belong to God!

## Ephesians 1

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.  
Use enrichment magazine pp. 2-5.

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly. For your daily study, ignore the direction concerning who is to read each line. Read the prayer one day and a stanza of the hymn on the three following days. On the fifth day, read the prayer again—or speak your own prayer, asking the Lord to bless your LifeLight leaders and fellow participants.

### Hymn

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

#### Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain.*

His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain.*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

(LSB 575)

### Prayer

(Note: the prayer is a paraphrase of Ephesians 1:15–23.)

**Leader:** O God, grant that these few minutes with You may bless us.

**Assembly:** Grant us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know You better (v. 17).

**Leader:** May our hearts be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which You have called us,

**Assembly:** The riches of Your glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparably great power for us who believe (v. 18).

**All:** Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 1

#### Day 1 • Read Ephesians 1:1–2

1. a. Who is the author of Ephesians (v. 1)?

b. The word *apostle* means “one who is sent.” As an apostle, what was the author commissioned to do? (See 4:11–12.)

c. What previous contact had he had with the people he was addressing (Acts 18:19–21; 19:1–20)?

d. What do you conclude about the writer's situation from Ephesians 4:1; 6:20?

2. Paul refers to the Christians of Ephesus as “saints” in verse 1b. Our common use of this word may refer to someone with extraordinary patience or heroic faith. But what does Paul mean by this term? Reflect on Ephesians 1:1b, 18–19a; Romans 1:6–7?

3. A standard form of greeting, both for Greeks and Hebrews, is expressed in verses 1–2. The word translated as “grace” was the common greeting in Greek; “peace” (*shalom*) was (and is) the common greeting

in Hebrew. What deeper, spiritual dimension do these terms have here, related to their coming from God the Father and also His Son, Jesus? (Consider John 3:16.)

Paul says about us Christians in the following verses:

a. Verse 3

b. Verse 4

c. Verses 5–6

d. Verse 7

e. Verses 10–11

f. Verse 13

9. As Christians, we may at times take for granted the richness of God's grace. Review some of these blessings as discussed in Ephesians 1:7–9.

a. *Redemption* is a word that indicates there has been a release through a payment, such as for slaves or prisoners. From what have we been released?

John 1:29

1 Corinthians 15:54–55

Hebrews 2:14–15

b. Forgiveness means we are set free from that which binds us. Read how Psalm 103:12 expresses the distance that the Lord has put between us and our sins. What comfort does this thought give to you personally?

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**Day 2 • Read Ephesians 1:3–14**

4. Paul now begins the body of his letter by reminding his readers of God's blessings—the gifts of His love. What is meant by our being blessed "in the heavenly places" (vv. 1:3, 20; 2:6; 6:12)?

5. What a mind-boggling and awesome thought: Before we were even born, before Adam and Eve were created, before the creation of the world, God chose us to be holy and predestined us to be His adopted children (vv. 4–5). What relation do you see in God having to call us to become blameless and holy and in His adopting us as His children (Ecclesiastes 7:20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:3)?

6. Meditate on verses 6–8. Jot down here some words from the text that emphasize the incredible prodigality of God's love for us.

7. At Paul's time, so-called "mystery" religions, similar to many modern-day cults and lodges, appealed to many people by offering them initiation into secret rituals, which only the insiders would know. What is the "mystery"—the all-important "secret"—that God has now revealed (vv. 9–10)? See also Ephesians 3:3–6; Romans 16:25–26.

8. Though secular man is forever searching to find himself, St. Paul assures Christians that we have identity and meaning through Jesus Christ. Summarize what

## Before and After

### Ephesians 2

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.

Use enrichment magazine pp. 6-8.

#### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

#### Hymn

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

(LSB 744)

#### Prayer

(Note: the prayer is a paraphrase of Ephesians 2:1–10.)

**Leader:** Lord God,

**Assembly:** We were dead in transgressions and sins (v. 1).

**Leader:** But now,

**Assembly:** We are made alive with Christ (v. 5).

**Leader:** Why?

**Assembly:** Because of His great love for us (v. 4).

**Leader:** For what reason?

**Assembly:** To be God's workmanship in Christ Jesus to do good works (v. 10).

**All:** Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### Opening Thought

A young Japanese became a Christian. After his conversion, he was asked why he seemed so happy. Someone suggested it must be because he came from a very wealthy family. "Oh, no!" said the young man. "My family disowned me after I became a Christian. I am no longer considered one of them. They are all Buddhists. I am happy because I now have the greatest riches in the world. I have the riches of my heavenly Father, which He has given me in Jesus Christ!"

#### Digging Deep

##### My Personal Study for Week 2

##### Day 1 • Read Ephesians 2:1–3

1. Ephesians 2:1 powerfully depicts our total spiritual powerlessness by nature: "You were dead in the trespasses and sins." What metaphors do 1 Corinthians 2:14 and Romans 8:7 use to underscore our inability to find Jesus "on our own"?

2. In what way is it true that so much of the world is nothing more than a huge graveyard populated by people who look alive but are dead?

3. The "prince of the power of the air," of course, is the devil, Satan. What do we learn about Satan from the following passages?

a. Ephesians 2:2

b. John 14:30

c. 1 Peter 5:8–9

4. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* In what area of your life does the devil work hardest to make you a child “of disobedience”?

5. What evidence in the world do you see that more and more people seem to be “carrying out the desires of [their] body” (Ephesians 2:3)?

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**Day 2 • Read Ephesians 2:4–10**

6. Our salvation is God’s doing. What four things did God do on behalf of His people?

a. Verse 4

b. Verse 5

c. Verse 6

d. Verses 7–9

7. a. A gift is something that is free. What does Scripture remind us about salvation (v. 8)?

b. What do you think makes it so hard for everyone, apart from the Spirit, to accept what Paul says in verse 8? (Consider again your answer to question 1.)

8. Write a prayer of thanks for your rescue—then pray it!

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**Day 3 • Read Ephesians 2:10**

9. We are God’s “workmanship” (v. 10a). The Greek word for “workman” is *poiema*, the same word from which we get our word *poem*. In what ways do you think we might be like a poem?

10. God “prepared beforehand” the good works we are to do (v. 10). In other words, God is at work in our lives, shaping us to be beautiful in His sight. What is His astonishing ultimate goal in this shaping (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18)?

11. We are to do “good works” (Ephesians 2:10b). According to Matthew 25:34–40, what are some of these “good works”?

12. What opportunities is the Lord giving to you personally at this time to be doing these or other good works?