

## **Ephesians: Experiencing the Power of Jesus**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-2

### **BEGINNING OUR TIME TOGETHER**

Jesus promised a new life, an abundant life for his followers. Not only is Jesus our Savior because of his life of complete obedience that led him ultimately to the cross, but Jesus is the supreme example of what is possible for our lives because he was totally dependent on the Spirit of God. When we depend on the Holy Spirit, we experience the power of Jesus in our lives.

Where do you need to mature? What do you need to learn? What temptation do you need to overcome? Where are you weak and falling short? In what way do you need to grow in humility? How do you need to grow more disciplined? We all need to mature in some way. And we all need the power of Jesus to mature. In the space below, write down in what way do you need to mature?

### **INTRODUCTION**

Three reasons why studying Ephesians will help us experience the power of Christ. By studying Ephesians:

1. We can personally experience Christ powerfully working through God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We can personally experience the Lord's mighty power even when we face \_\_\_\_\_ battle.
3. We can personally experience God's peace through God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF JESUS IN OUR LIVES**

1. Ephesus was a place in which Paul experienced the power of Christ flowing through him into other people's lives. Read Acts 19:1-22 and pay attention to all the variety of ways that Paul experienced the power of the Holy Spirit working. How have you experienced the power of Jesus? (For more Scripture on experiencing the power of Christ in a variety of ways, see also: Ephesians 3:14-21; Galatians 5:19-24; John 12:23-26; 16:7-15.)

2. As we heard in the message, Ephesus was the place where the Temple of Artemis was. This temple was known as one of the seven wonders of the world. Read Acts 19:23-41. In this passage, we see a great conflict, indicating that there was real spiritual battle that was going on in Ephesus. This is why the apostle Paul was led by the Holy Spirit to write the famous passage on spiritual battle in Ephesians 6:11-18. Describe how you have seen Christ's power working in your life through God's Word, or, in spiritual battle; or, by God's grace.
  
3. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. In this passage on building the church and its people so that they are unshakable in their faith, Paul identifies a number of leadership roles for the church. What are the leaders to equip the people of the church to do? And what is the end result that God seeks in our church and your life?
  
4. This question correlates to the previous question. Read Acts 20:13-38. What lessons does Paul want the Ephesian church elders (and us) to learn about growing our church and experiencing the power of Jesus? (Look for his teaching on how he served the Lord; on preaching the gospel; on being led by the Spirit; on what it looks like to finish the race of this life; on the threats to the local church; and, the quote from Jesus.)

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (Acts 20:24)

### TAG TIME READING GUIDE

Day 1: Ephesians 1  
Day 2: Ephesians 2  
Day 3: Ephesians 3  
Day 4: Ephesians 4  
Day 5: Ephesians 5  
Day 6: Ephesians 6  
Day 7: Joshua 1:9