

*Christ's Boundless*  
**RICHES**  
*a study in the book of Ephesians*



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(name)

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2022; The Navigators at Kansas State University

Jon Pagel; David Torpen

Text taken from the NIV Translation

Three Thirds process used from Steve Smith's book, "Training for Trainers"

# SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<b>week of</b>	<b>study week</b>	<b>content</b>
August 21st	-	No studies, meet new people
August 28th	1	Gather and Meet
September 4th	2	Ephesians 1:1-14
September 11th	3	Ephesians 1:15-23
September 18th	4 -	Ephesians 2:1-10
September 25th	-	Bonding Week
October 2nd	5	Ephesians 2:11-22
October 9th	6	Ephesians 3:1-13
October 16th	7	Ephesians 3:14-21
October 23rd	8	Ephesians 4:1-16
October 30th	-	Bonding Week
November 6th	9	Ephesians 4:17-32
November 13th	10	Ephesians 5:1-21
November 20th	-	Thanksgiving Break
November 27th	11	Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9
December 4th	12	Ephesians 6:10-24 / Review

# HOW TO DO THIS STUDY

Well actually, this is more than just a Bible study but involves a discovery bible study process called the “Three Thirds” in which part of it includes discussion over the Scriptures. From this we desire to see a movement of the gospel that mobilizes disciples who can make disciples. In the Great Commission from Matthew 28, Jesus told the disciples to, “teach them to obey all I have commanded you.” Part of following Jesus then is learning to obey him as the resurrected King who has authority over all creation.

## **Obedience?! Authority!**

But let’s be honest, the word “obey” isn’t one we like is it? After all, maybe you came to college to get away from parents so you don’t have to obey, so you can be your own “authority”. And yet, the Bible presents Jesus as the King all creation longs to live under, whose rule and kingdom will bring ultimate peace and justice on earth. Obeying Jesus as our authority is a good thing! But how so?

First of all, Jesus calls us to obey **after** we believe in Him for entry into the kingdom. Obedience isn’t about earning his favor, love, or acceptance but living out the new identity we have received through his life, death, and resurrection. Obedience becomes your longing and desire once you are in the family through Jesus, not how you earn your way into it. This is the way of discipleship.

Second, Jesus tells us to obey **after** he models for us what sacrificial love looks like (Jn 14:31). He isn’t in heaven ordering us around but humbly becomes one of us to show us what God is like. That is amazing and beautiful and ought to inspire our greatest allegiance and worship! So what is the “three thirds” process?

## **Three Thirds Process**

The **first third** is engaging with each other and the Lord, the **second third** is studying the passage together as a group, and the **last third** is commissioning each other to follow the Lord and fish for men during the week.

### **first third: look back**

This includes caring for each other by sharing personal updates, worshipping the Lord together through a Psalm or song, checking in on how each other followed the Lord and fished for people for the past week, and a vision for living on mission.

### **second third: look up**

The second third involves discussing the new lesson, a passage from the book of Ephesians. You will read the passage out loud as a group and then answer the questions, “What do I learn about God?” “What do I learn about people?” “What is there in this passage to obey?”

### **last third: look ahead**

The final third involves setting goals. Take time to pray and think, and then come up with a way to follow God based on what you read and a way to fish for men based on what you read. It could be, “I will share my testimony with my sister this week.” Or, “I will call my parents and tell them about repentance and faith in Jesus from Acts 2 this week.” Then during the week, you work to make these happen. You can pick a buddy to be in touch with during the week to help you with this as well. When you meet back again as a group the following week, you will share how these experiences went!

Here is an example of how this process looks week to week.

## LOOK BACK

### Care ~ 10 mins

What do you need prayer for? Is there something you feel you need to share?

### Worship ~ 10 mins

Stir our hearts and affections by reminding ourselves of the costly love of Jesus. You can read and Psalm, listen to a song, etc...

Song, hymn, or Psalm this week:

Person in charge:

### Loving Accountability ~ 5-10 mins

Share in a group or in pairs about following and fishing. Following: how are you obeying the Word this week? Fishing: How are you witnessing for Jesus or training others this week? This is a follow up for the goals and prayer from last week.

### Vision ~ 1-5 mins

Share a verse or story that reminds your group of who we are, who we can be, and/or what God has given us to do (ie: Rom. 1:5 or Matt. 28:19-20).

## LOOK UP

### New Lesson or Passage ~ 40 mins

Most weeks this will be a chapter in the book of Ephesians. See the "Semester Schedule" for which chapter we will read and discuss. This is meant to be simple and reproducible with anybody, with an emphasis on obedience rather than an in depth study with lots of preparation.

"What do I learn about God?"

"What do I learn about people?"

"What is there in this passage to obey?"

## LOOK AHEAD

### Set Goals to Follow and Fish ~ 15 mins

Based on the new lesson or passage, what is one way you want to...

Obey and follow Jesus this week:

Fish for men or women:

### Pray ~ 5 mins

Ask for help and leading by the Holy Spirit.

# **INTRO TO EPHESIANS** | HISTORICAL CONTEXT

## **Why do we need to know the historical context?**

We all have our own lens through which we read the Bible that is shaped by our background, personal experiences, cultural climate, and social issues. For example, when you read Paul talk about slavery in a variety of contexts in the NT, you may picture white Americans enslaving blacks in the 1800s. But is that what Paul had in mind when he used that word?

If we don't recognize this and do our homework below, we will radically confuse the author's words to mean what we think they mean in our day. In this sense, reading the Bible is a cross cultural experience where misunderstandings abound.

Doing our best to know the historical context allows us to better cross the cultural gap so we can read Ephesians from the perspective of the original readers and what this would have meant to THEM. Then we will be prepared to know how it applies to us today in 2022 in Manhattan, KS.

FIRST, read through Ephesians and try to answer the questions below as best you can.

SECOND, read an introduction to Ephesians in a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource (find some good ones in Appendix A) to fill in more information).

**who wrote it and what do you know about him?**

**when was it written and what else was going on at that time?**

**to whom was it written and what do you know about them, their city, etc...?**

**in what style was it written?**

Genre is so important because it shapes the meaning of words. Poetry is understood differently than an email or a to-do list or love letter or birthday card. Find out all you can about the genre of this book and how to read it.

why was it written? what reason(s) prompted to writer to communicate?

what are some themes or key ideas you are noticing in this book?

give the book a title (different than the cover):

gather and meet

# WEEK 1

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

# WEEK 1 | GATHER AND MEET

## goal for first meeting

- Have fun and begin getting to know each other
- Discuss group expectations and spiritual growth
- Tentatively decide study date/time
- Get familiar with the Ephesians study

## Nav Nights

### 1st Nav Night

August 25th

8pm on campus. Location TBD

### Other Nav Nights

Every Thursday at 7pm on campus.

Location TBD

## other key dates

Freshman Fun

Friday, Sept. 2nd

Campout

Friday, Sept. 9th

Engage Fall Conference

October 1-3rd in KC

Evangelism Trip

Friday, October 14th

Barn Dance

Friday, October 28th

Coffee Cart

Monday mornings from  
9-10am by Library.

## community group details

Day:

Time:

Location:

### Materials

- Bible and pen
- Copy of this study
- Prayerful, humble heart
- Any extra resources you can get your hands on (see Appendix A)

## group bonding or community service ideas:

## group expectations

How do you hope to benefit from this study this semester? What do you want each other to commit to as a group this semester?

# WEEK 1 | LEADER'S GUIDE

## Before the meeting

When and where are we meeting?

Have returning students been followed up with? Write them below.

Have new students been warmly invited? Write those you are inviting below.

What is a fun way for us to get to know each other?

How can we make new people feel welcomed and included?

Did we bring Ephesians studies to look through together

Talk with your co-leader about how to divide up tasks and pray to find a person of peace who is teachable and eager to obey God.

## During the meeting

Take time to have fun, process the start of the year, and get to know each other

Give some time to discuss backgrounds with the Bible and any expectations people have

Share some of your own vision, hopes, and prayers for the group

Introduce the study by handing them out and looking through it together

Share a gospel presentation and have them practice it

Make sure you decide on a weekly time to meet and you get people's contact info

Give open invitation to get a 1:1 time or meal with whoever wants

Make sure they hear about Engage and feel personally invited to come with you

## After the meeting

Follow up and thank everyone individually for coming



Ephesians 1:1-14

# WEEK 2

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 2 | EPHESIANS 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

# WEEK 2 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 1:1-14**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 2 |** REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 1:15-23

# WEEK 3

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## **WEEK 3** | EPHESIANS 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

# WEEK 3 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 1:15-23**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

Pray

# **WEEK 3 |** REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**

Ephesians 2:1-10

# WEEK 4

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 4 | EPHESIANS 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# WEEK 4 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 2:1-10**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 4** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 2:11-22

# WEEK 5

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 5 | EPHESIANS 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

# WEEK 5 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 2:11-22**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 5 |** REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 3:1-13

# WEEK 6

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 6 | EPHESIANS 3:1-13

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

# WEEK 6 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 3:1-13**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 6 |** REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 3:14-21

# WEEK 7

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## **WEEK 7** | EPHESIANS 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

# WEEK 7 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 3:14-21**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

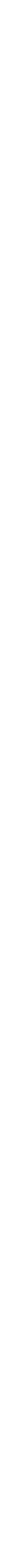
**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

Pray

# **WEEK 7** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 4:1-16

# WEEK 8

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 8 | EPHESIANS 4:1-16

<sup>1</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

# WEEK 8 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 4:1-16**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 8** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 4:17-32

# WEEK 9

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 9 | EPHESIANS 4:17-32

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

# WEEK 9 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 4:17-32**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 9** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



Ephesians 5:1-21

# WEEK 10

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 10 | EPHESIANS 5:1-21

<sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,

rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

# WEEK 10 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 5:1-21**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

Pray

# **WEEK 10** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**





Ephesians 5:22-6:9

# WEEK 11

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 11 | EPHESIANS 5:22-6:9

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

# WEEK 11 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 5:22-6:9**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

Pray

# **WEEK 11** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**





Ephesians 6:10-24 and Review

# WEEK 12

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

## WEEK 12 | EPHESIANS 6:10-24

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

<sup>21</sup> Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. <sup>22</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

<sup>23</sup> Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

# WEEK 12 | THREE THIRDS PROCESS

## LOOK BACK

Care, Worship, Loving Accountability, Vision

## LOOK UP

**Read and Discuss Ephesians 6:10-24**

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What is there in this passage to obey?

Rewrite the passage on the following page —>

## LOOK AHEAD

**Set Goals to Follow and Fish**

Take 2-3 minutes to pray individually to receive the message we studied, and then set goals based on the passage.

**Follow:** One way I want to follow Jesus this week....

**Fish:** One way I want to intentionally move towards someone far from God...

**Pray**

# **WEEK 12** | REWRITE THE PASSAGE

**Word for word**

**In your own words**



## **WEEK 12 | EPHESIANS 6:10-24 AND REVIEW**

thinking back on this study, write out in your own words the main things Ephesians was trying to communicate to the readers/hearers.

what kind of difference do you think this book have made for the New Testament hearers? What kind of difference has it made in your life this semester?

which passage(s) impacted you the most and why? Take time to go back and meditate on those.

take time to write out a prayer of thanks to God for the opportunity to study this book, and ask Him to make it count for the rest of your life.



A - I

# APPENDIX

*“the boundless riches of Christ”*

# APPENDIX | SUPER AWESOME RESOURCES

## a) commentary and other best resources

Bible Project Resources for Ephesians

Regarding context for New Testament Letters (<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/context-crucial/>)

Book overview (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ephesians/>)

Commentary - [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)

Type in the passage in the search bar. Under tools on the left, click “commentaries”. Here you can choose from a number of different commentaries on this passage.

Commentary - [netbible.org](http://netbible.org)

Type in the passage in the search bar. On the right, click on notes and that takes you to Constables commentary notes.

Commentary - "New Bible Commentary"

This is a great resource you can buy on Amazon edited by Gordon J. Wenham and J. Alec Motyer.

Historical Context/Genre - “How to Read the Bible Book by Book”

- “How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth”

These are must have books that help you know the context and structure to each book in the Bible along with different genres in the Bible and how to read/interpret them.

Historical Context - [biblica.com](http://biblica.com)

Hover over “Bible” to find the “Resources” then click on the “NIV Study Bible”. There you can find introductions to each book of the Bible

Historical Context- Study Bible

A good study Bible will have this information before the book and other great tools to help you know how to study these books.

## b) finding cross references

You can cross reference ideas, words, or even people. Anything that helps you gain a fuller understanding of these things as they are used in different areas. Basically, whatever sticks out to you, look at where else that comes up in other passages. One of the best ways we understand what the author meant with a word is to see where else he has used that same word and let these different passages and contexts fill out some of that meaning for us.

To do this, go to “[blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)” and type in the passage in the search bar. Under tools on the left, click “interlinear”. Find the word you want and click on the Strongs number G\_ \_ \_ . Scroll down to see where else this word is used in passages and consider how it is used in different places.

One example for Ephesians that occurs numerous times is the word “power”, grk. *exousia* in 1:21. Clicking on the Strongs word in Blue Letter Bible shows 103 times in the NT, 4 times in Ephesians. Scroll down and look at these different occurrences and meditate on how they are used. You just did a cross reference!

To keep going, look elsewhere at other letters of Paul to see how he used this in other places, like 1 Cor. 15:54 and Col. 1:13, 15; 2:10, 15. To go further, look at ways different authors used this word, like in the gospels or other NT letters. You now are getting a fuller view of this word usage in the Bible.

## c) Christmas break growth plan

Nobody who has succeeded at something would say it has come easy. They have made sacrifices, been forced to prioritize their goals, and gave their full attention and effort.

The process of becoming more like Jesus (sanctification) is similar; it takes intentionality and work. Of course we do this in faith: dependent on God's grace and the Holy Spirit every step of the way and this hard work **MUST** be rooted in a deep confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ. But this absolutely *includes* our own discipline, choices, desires, and hard work. We will never accidentally drift into holiness.

Some of the greatest theologians in church history gave hours and hours each day to knowing the scriptures.

Paul says he worked, "harder than any others around him" (1 Cor. 15:10), encouraged the church in Philippi to, "work out their salvation with fear and trembling (2:14) and to "press on and strain forward" (3:12-13), and in Hebrews we are told, "make every effort to be holy, without which nobody will see the Lord" (12:14).

Resolve now not to drift spiritually over the upcoming break. Here are a few things you can do to get ready:

### 1) don't go alone

Find a like-minded friend who you can communicate with regularly over break. Share your plans and talk about them each week

### 2) have a plan

What do you want to read each week? What do you want to study? What do you want to memorize? Is there a set aside time you want to pray each week? Do you want to serve your family/friends in a tangible way? Whatever it is.... Write it down and put it into your calendar.

### 3) plead with God

Ask God for his help and grace to empower you each step of the way. Ask for help to be disciplined and humble, to keep you from pride, to remember the sufficiency of Christ when you forget or fail, and to show his faithfulness in your own weakness. Surely, no one will grow over break just in their own willpower.

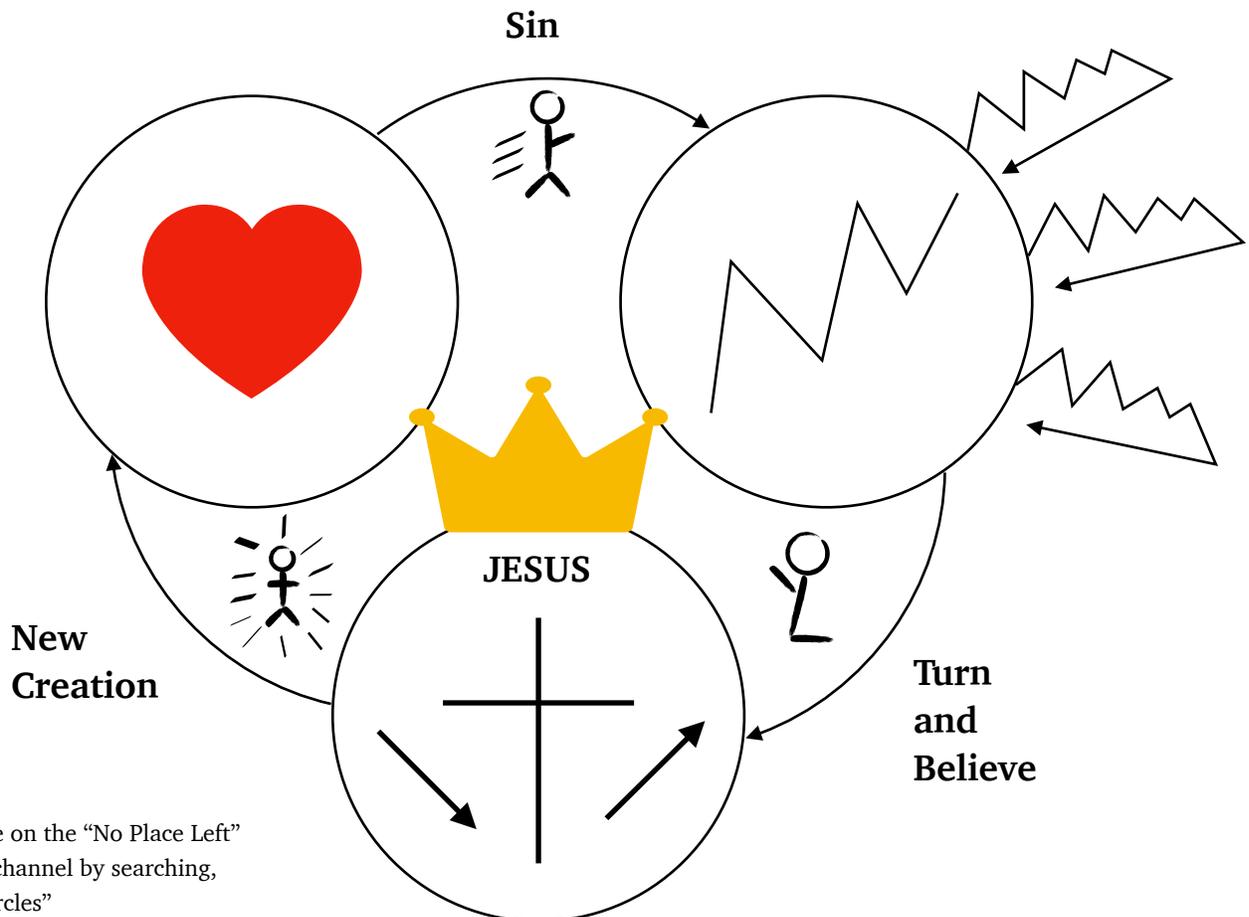
.....  
**WRITE IT OUT:**

A friend to grow with: \_\_\_\_\_

My plan:



e) three circles gospel illustration

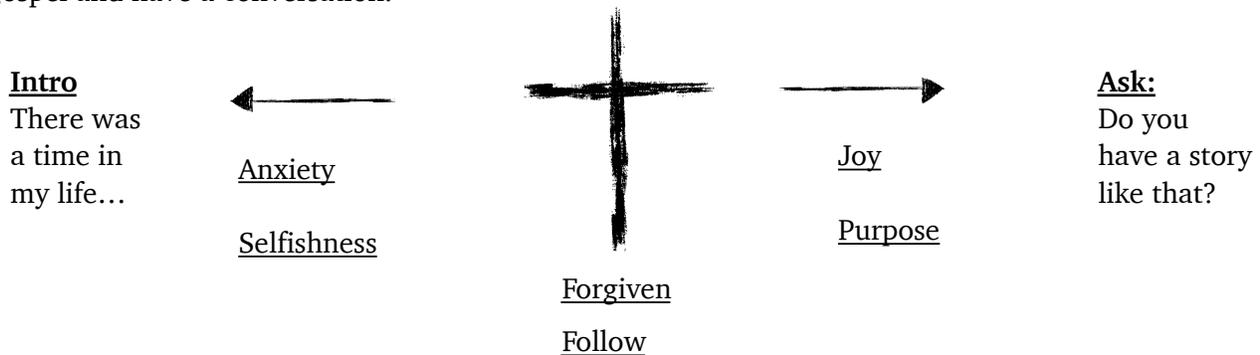


Find more on the "No Place Left"  
YouTube channel by searching,  
"The 3 Circles"

## f) 15 second testimony

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world." John 4:39-42

Personal Testimony is a powerful way to share what God has done in our life. It is a way to show that the good news of the Gospel can change our lives. However, many of us struggle to share what God has done in our lives. What do we share? How do we invite them to a conversation and not a sermon? What if I do not have a catastrophic "conversion story?" How do I start? What do I do when I finish my story? These questions and others like it can be roadblocks to sharing our story. Here is a simple tool to help us share the gospel and have a conversation.



1. There was a time in my life...It can be your conversion story or a time in your life when you really needed Jesus to help in a trial, struggle, or brokenness.
2. Take 10 minutes right now to think about what your two words might be for each slot. Ask God, "what part of my story should I share?"
3. Invite them to share their story! If they struggle with what to say, or they say "I do not have a story like that," you could ask, "is there anything in your life that you would want Jesus to change?" or "What do you know about Jesus?"

There was a time in my life when \_\_\_\_\_ (two descriptors)

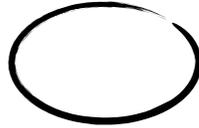
And then \_\_\_\_\_ (What happened?).

So I learned that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, and I chose to believe and follow Him.

And now I understand that God \_\_\_\_\_. Do you have a story like that?

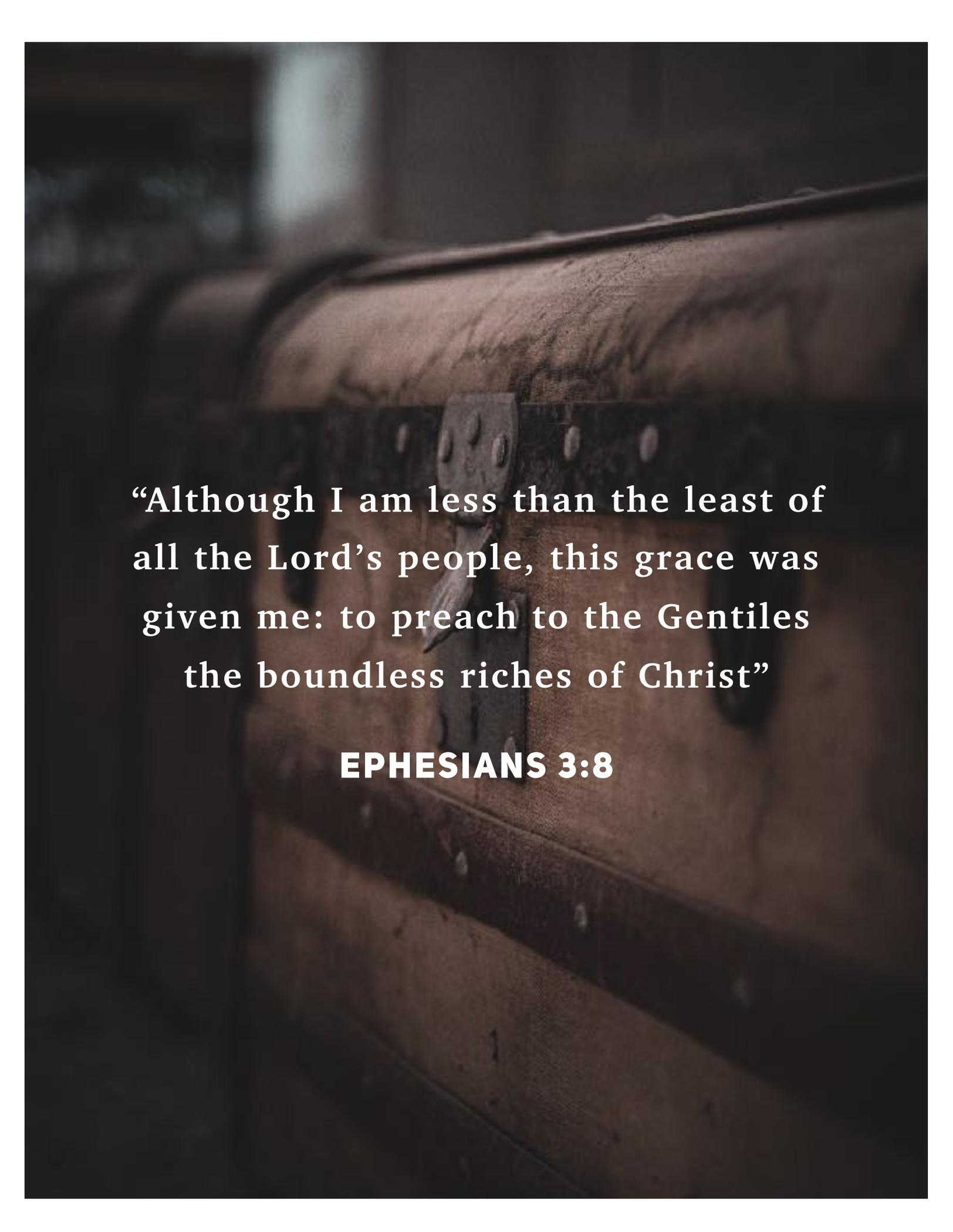
### **g) my oikos**

“Oikos” is a greek word that refers to a family or household. These are often the relational networks where the gospel is quick to move. Here, we are trying to identify relational networks of people we know that we are looking for people of peace who might be receptive to the gospel and could become a catalyst for the gospel within their own oikos.. This is a visual reminder of those around us that are far from God and is a great way to begin praying and pleading for the Spirit to stir up faith in Jesus. Write your name in the middle, draw a line to someone you know and relationships around that person.



## h) hour that changed the world: prayer wheel





“Although I am less than the least of  
all the Lord’s people, this grace was  
given me: to preach to the Gentiles  
the boundless riches of Christ”

**EPHESIANS 3:8**