

Pastor Dave Patterson
Ephesians Part 1—The Church God is Building
1.10.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority
to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that
will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the
relationships.

[Ephesians 2:20-22]

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The Kingdom can enter any place, any city; wherever the King shows up, every other power must bow.

[Acts 19:10]

This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

[Acts 19:20, NLT/TPT]

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. "People were greatly impacted."

The power of the Gospel has the ability to change things for eternity. God will even use your prison years to give you the greatest revelation.

[Ephesians 1:1-11]

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, For he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan

[Ephesians 1:4]

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

[Romans 8:29]

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Our life is like a tapestry: on the front it is beautiful and ornate; the back is a woven mess; God sees your whole life from beginning to end and knows the masterpiece that is there.

[Ephesians 1:15-23]

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Predestination is based on foreknowledge; God knew you before the foundations of this world. Yet, He never overrides your will in the process.

He sees from the beginning to the end, so don't give up in the middle.

Respond to restoration and pray for more revelation, even when you can't see what's next! When you can see your future through God's lens, you'll go running after it!

BIG IDEAS FROM EPHESIANS—

- 1. Receive the invitation.**
- 2. Pray for a continual increase of wisdom and revelation.**

[Ephesians 1:17-18]

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. 18 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,

WISDOM – GOD-GIVEN ABILITY TO NAVIGATE THE FUTURE

REVELATION – THE ABILITY TO SEE WHAT LIES AHEAD

[Psalm 92:13]

Those who are **planted in the house** of the LORD will flourish in the courts of our God.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Read Acts 19 for context on the Grand Theater in Ephesus.
2. Pray for wisdom and revelation to know God better and to better understand the hope you have in Him.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is accomplished in togetherness? Where have you witnessed movements arise today, and in times past, because of it?
2. How have you seen radical decline from something that was previously thriving? What was the breakdown?
3. Why is it so important for the people of God to be joined together in Him? [Ephesians 2.20-22] What is He building with your life?
4. What role does a cornerstone have in a building? Why do you think Jesus is called the cornerstone of the Church?
5. How does the preaching of the Gospel change lives? How does a demonstration of God's power go beyond persuasive words?
6. How is your life like a tapestry? Why can both the beauty and the mess coexist and carry a powerful message? What do people see in you, and how do they respond?
7. Why would God use our prison years to give us some of the greatest revelation? (Consider what you've gleaned even this last year.)
8. What does a preferable future look like for you and your family? Who would be directly impacted from your journey getting there?
9. Pray for a continual spirit of wisdom and revelation for each other.