

Ephesians 4

Background

Ephesians 3 was all a mystery! Well, at least it started out that way. Paul, as someone indebted to bringing the gospel to the Gentiles, talks about what was once a mystery becoming revealed through the Holy Spirit. This, of course, was the mystery of God's plan to graft the Gentiles into the body of Christ and make Paul as one of the mouthpieces to bring the gospel to them.

This was humbling to Paul, so much so that he called himself "less than the least of the saints". God's grace to the Gentiles and tasking Paul with the responsibility of preaching the gospel to them was humbling, but also strengthened him and granted him boldness and confidence through faith in Him. Now that Paul has shared this, what comes next in Ephesians 4? Let's study together and find out.

Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

Ephesians 4:4-6:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Day 2 - Observations

3. In verses 1-3, **what** are some of the adjectives used to describe **what** it means to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called?"

4. Verses 4-6 describe our unity in Christ. The word "one" is used 7 different times in the NKJV and ESV translations. **What** 7 words follow each "one" used in these passages?

5. Verses 7-16 dive into some of the spiritual gifts that God grants for the work of ministry. **What** are the gifts Paul mentions in this passage?

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6. In verses 17-19, Paul describes how the Gentiles walk which is a great description of how we used to walk as unbelievers. In **what** ways did they walk? In verses 20-24, **what** does Paul tell them they should do instead?
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7. Verses 25-31 lists many different things we should put away as a new man so that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. **What** are some of the things mentioned? **What** should we do instead of that in verse 32?
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8. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.
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Day 3 - Additional Observations

9. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.
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10. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.
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11. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV), "**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of**

God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” - This week’s word from the passage above: **“grieve”**

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

12. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

Day 4 - Interpret

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God’s intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

13. In verses 1-6, what is the lesson Paul is trying to teach the Ephesians (or any reader of this letter) about any collection of believers in Christ?

14. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

15. Paul is addressing the unity of Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ in verses 1-6. With this idea of unity in Christ in mind, write down a personal application that will challenge you to consider unity with all believers, even believers that you don’t always agree with on non-essential issues.

16. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
