

# EPHESIANS

WEEK OF August 12 – August 18 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aide for you to **experience Christ together.**

**Prayer:** Begin your time in group together by inviting God to be with you. Ask Him to change you as you seek Him and study His Word together. Ask him to use everyone in the group to encourage, challenge, and teach one another.

## **Bible Study:**

1. This week we had Pastor Vance back to kick off our verse-by-verse study through the New Testament letter of Ephesians. To introduce the sermon, Vance listed some shared characteristics of the city of Ephesus and Las Vegas.
  - a. **Why is it important that we understand the culture of the people in Ephesus?**
  - b. **How does it affect your perspective of the book knowing that the city of Ephesus and Las Vegas were very similar?**
2. Pastor Vance taught two foundation truths from Ephesians 1:1-2. The first truth was, “This letter can be trusted.” He taught from this first point that Ephesians can be trusted because of who wrote it: “*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...*”.
  - a. **What is an apostle of Christ Jesus?**
  - b. **Why does Paul being an apostle help us in trusting the letter of Ephesians?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Vance taught, “This letter will be encouraging and challenging.” On the letter being encouraging, he taught a little bit about our position in Christ; specially, that we are “saints.”
  - a. **What does it mean for us to be saints because of our position in Christ?**
  - b. **How should our position in Christ affect our life practically?**
4. Not only will the letter be encouraging, but Pastor Vance warned us that it will be challenging. He noted that Paul is going to encourage us about who we are in Christ, and challenge us about how we should faithfully follow Christ in a city like Las Vegas. This is how he calls the believers at Ephesus both “saints” and “faithful.”
  - a. **What is the problem with this statement, “*I am saved by faith but then its up to me to live the Christian life*”?**
  - b. **How do we balance the reality that we are considered saints in Christ but still not yet practically perfect?**