

Scripture and Background Information for October 20-26

Made for More

During this series, beginning October 20, we will look through the book of Ephesians. We'll discover that although our childhood desire to be significant or important may have been misplaced, it was never intended to be *replaced*. Far from just the immature dream of a childlike mind, your Life, purpose, and significance may be *bigger* and *nearer* than you ever dreamed.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page.

Remember to pick up your updated **Discussion Guide**, an adaptation of the original format. The adaptation includes special instructions if the passage is 10 verses or longer. In the **GOD'S WORDS** section, you will be copying the scripture "word for word". In the **MY WORDS** section, you will be paraphrasing the scripture in your own words. You can pick up copies of the new version in the Next Steps Center or from your leader.

Background for Ephesians 1:18-23

Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are indescribably rich in Jesus Christ but are not realizing their full potential in Christ. In many ways, they are living in spiritual poverty when they have the ability to live as those with amazing wealth. Paul describes this small church's wealth by reminding them of their adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, life, grace, citizenship, and every spiritual blessing. As Paul describes these benefits given to the believer, he instructs them in how to live out their full potential.

In Ephesians 1:18-23, Paul is in the middle of a prayer that he has been praying since the opening of the letter. Overwhelmed with God's grace towards this tiny group of Christians, Paul reminds them of the blessings they have been given in Christ as a body. This reminder to the Ephesians is one that we need to hear as well—that is, Christ has richly blessed us in every way.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

October 27

Ephesians 2:4-10

November 3

Ephesians 3:16-21

BONUS! On page two, we are providing a tool for practically engaging the truths presented in the scriptures. Please use this tool yourself, and we encourage you to discuss it with your Community Group.

Block Map

Imagine if every person in Fort Worth lived within walking distance of someone who loves Jesus and loves their neighbors.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

1. Write the names of the eight neighbors who live closest to you.
2. Add some relevant information about the family. Include information about their occupations, hometowns, hobbies, etc.
3. Post this somewhere visible – on a mirror, window or refrigerator – for a daily reminder to engage with your neighbors.

Use the **B.L.E.S.S.** practices and explore how you and your family can make a difference in the lives of those living right next door.

