



Ephesians Reading Guide

Chapter 1-6

Ephesians

Day 1: 1:1-14

1. Read 1:1-14, once silently and once aloud. If you did not know that the passage was part of a letter, but had just heard it read or sung in church, what would you think it was? What impact do you believe Paul wanted to have on the reader?
2. What key phrase does Paul repeat in various ways in this passage?
3. What does verse 3 say the Father has done for us?
4. List the blessings Paul named in the rest of the passage. (personalize them by writing “me” instead of “us.”) verse 4, verse 5, verse 7, verse 9, verses 11-12, and verses 13-14.
5. According to verses 7-8, how are we enabled to become holy and blameless? Use your own words.
6. According to verse 10, what is God’s goal? Explain in your own words.
7. Do you ever find it difficult to praise God in prayer, especially for more than a minute at a time? If so, why? How could you overcome these obstacles? Take time now to praise God with aspects of His character and actions that inspire you from your study of Ephesians 1:3-14.

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Day 2: 1:15-23

1. What does Paul give thanks for (see verses 15-16)?
2. What did Paul pray that the Ephesians would come to know more and more (verse 17, verse 18, and verse 19)?
3. Paul says (Ephesians 1:19-20), God's power in us is His power that raised Jesus from the dead. What does this mean for your life?
4. What knowledge (see verse 17) is basic to fulfilling Paul's prayer in verses 18-19? Why?
5. Describe the relationship between Christ and the Church that verses 20-23 describes. How does Christ's position relate to you personally?
6. In your own words, summarize 1:15-23.

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Day 3: 2:1-10

1. Is there any way that you fall, or have fallen in the past, into the description of the people named in verses 1-3? Explain.
2. In verses 4-9, Paul tells us about some tremendous things that God has done for us. List as many as you can find, putting them in your own words.
3. According to verses 8-9, how are we to respond to what God has done?
4. What is our purpose, according to verse 10?
5. Sum up the central teaching of 2:1-10 in a sentence.

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Day 4: 2:11-22

1. Paraphrase Ephesians 2:12—what was the non-Jews’ relationship to God and His promises before Christ? Paraphrase verse 13—what is their new relationship, and how has it been established?
2. What was the “barrier” (verse 14) between Gentiles and Jews before Christ (see verses 12-15)?
3. How did Jesus reconcile Jews and Gentiles; how did He break the barrier between them (see verses 14-16)?
4. What do you think is the “peace” that Jesus preached (see verse 17; compare verse 14)?
5. What result of Christ’s work does verse 18 describe?
6. State in a sentence the main teaching of 2:11-22.

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Day 5: 3:1-13

1. Read verses 1-2 and 7-8. What was Paul's attitude toward his ministry? What does his attitude teach about service to God?
2. In verse 3, Paul speaks of the "mystery" that God made known to him. What is this mystery (see verses 3-6)? Why do you think Paul describes it the way he does in verse 8?
3. What was God's purpose in this plan (see verses 10-11)?
4. What does verse 12 teach about conditions and attitudes in seeking God?
5. Explain in your own words what our "freedom and confidence" in God (see verse 12) is founded on.
6. What do you think is the main message of 3:1-13?

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Day 6: 3:14-21

1. What do verses 14 and 15 teach about Paul's attitude toward God? God's power and authority?
2. Look carefully at Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in 3:16-19. Write down each of the specific requests that Paul prayed for the Ephesians. Now write down Paul's request into your own words by paraphrasing it as a prayer for yourself.
3. What is Paul's emphasis in this prayer?
4. Paul shifts his emphasis in verses 20-21, as he closes his prayer. What do these two verses teach you about God, your relationship to Him and His purposes for all believers?
5. What truth about God's love discussed in chapters 1-3 seems most significant to you today? Why?

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Day 7: 4:1-16

1. From what you learned in chapters 1–3, what do you think Paul wants you to remember about the “calling” we have received?
2. Read the qualities Paul urges us to take on in 4:2. How can these traits help us fulfill the command in 4:3?
3. What do you think is the “grace” Christ has given to each believer (see verse 7)? See Ephesians 4:12
4. According to verses 11-13, what else has Christ given us, and for what purpose?
5. What is our unity in (see verse 13), and what are some practical implications for your own life?
6. What are the characteristics of spiritual maturity (see verses 13-15) and immaturity (see verse 14) in the faith?
7. What do you think it means to speak the truth in love (see verse 15)?

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Day 8: 4:17-32

1. In verses 17-19, Paul describes how the ungodly live. What are the main characteristics he describes?
2. What do you think hardness of heart (see verse 18) is?
3. Why do you think Paul insists so emphatically in verse 17?
4. Do you think there are any warnings here for Christians? If so, what might they be?
5. In verses 25-32, Paul lists some specific rules for living in “true righteousness and holiness” (verse 24). What are the commands Paul gives in verses 25-28?
6. In 4:30, Paul tells us not to “grieve the Holy Spirit.” How do the following two verses (31-32) explain what Paul meant by an offense to God’s Spirit?

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Day 9: 5:1-20

1. Look carefully at 5:1-2. What does Paul tell the Ephesians to do? What does Paul's command suggest to you about what following this instruction means?
2. Read the list of behavior that Paul gives in verses 3-4. Is What kinds of thoughts or actions should you look out for?
3. Why do you think Paul called an immoral, impure, or covetous person an idolater (see verse 5)? How are these sins idolatrous?
4. What do you think Paul means in Ephesians 5:7 by warning us not to become "partners" with those who are disobedient?
5. How would you explain what it means to "live as children of light" (verse 8)?
6. Read 5:15-17. Why do you think Paul inserted this advice? Hoe can this advice be applied to your life?
7. What does 5:19-20 teach about our relationship to God? our relationships with others?

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Day 10: 5:21-33

1. What is the attitude that Paul describe that Christians should have towards one another in verse 21?
2. In verses 23-24, Paul sets up an example between husband and wife and Christ and the church. What does it mean for the husband to be the head the way God is the head of the church? What does it mean for the wife to submit the way the church submits to God?
3. Read 5:25-30. Why do you think Paul used Christ and His body/church as an illustration of how husbands are to love their wives?
4. How does the submission Paul describe for wives differ from society's advice to wives?
5. What do you think are the most important keys Paul provides to a wife's proper understanding of submission to her husband? What are the most important keys to a husband's proper understanding of love for his wife?

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Day 11: 6:1-9

1. What do you think it means to obey “in the Lord” (verse 1)?
2. Explain what you think it means to “honor” parents.
3. What is the “promise” that Paul quotes along with the commandment (see verse 3; see also Deuteronomy 5:16)? Why do you think God put this commandment together with this promise? What connection do you see between them?
4. What things do you think Paul had in mind when he commanded fathers not to provoke their children to anger (see verse 4)?
5. How should verse 4 affect a parent’s attitudes and behavior toward his or her children?
6. Think about the situation Paul was addressing in 6:5-9. What do you think it means to “obey . . . with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ” (verse 5)?
7. State the central teaching of 6:1-9 and explain how the passage relates to chapter 5.

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Day 12: 6:10-24

1. What do you think it means to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (verse 10)?
2. What is Paul’s advice in verse 11 (also in verse 13)?
3. In verses 13-17 Paul talks about the armor of the Lord, list each piece of armor what they mean for your life?
4. Why are you vulnerable to attack if you are not “wearing” true righteousness?
5. What do you think “the helmet of salvation” (see verse 17) refers to?
6. How does the helmet of salvation protect you from evil attack?
7. List the five instructions on how to pray given in verse 18.
8. Why is the work of prayer so crucial?
9. What do you learn from 6:21-24 about relationships among Christians in the early church? List as many observations as you can.
10. State the main point of 6:10-24. How does 6:10-24 relate to Paul’s purpose for writing Ephesians?