

# LG | Leader

[Ephesians 1:1-2]

## WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your personal devotion with the Lord, what has the Lord revealed to you through His word this past week? If not, what is keeping you from the Lord?
- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

## ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. There have been scholars and theologians whose lives have been radically changed by reading the book of Ephesians. Given your introduction to this book, what do you hope to gain as you navigate deeper into it? Do you desire to be changed by this book?

[Teaching people to desire and long for life change when encountering the words of our Creator.]

2. Paul's introduction to the Ephesians occurs in Acts 19 (his third missionary journey, Acts 18:23-21:17). Upon Paul's arrival, what did he uncover about the people of Ephesus? What was the cultural climate there?

The disciples were unaware of the access and availability of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ (19:2). The cultural climate was filled with all manner of ungodliness, prostitution, magic, idol worship, occults, worship of false gods, etc. Significant spiritual warfare was before Paul as he set forth to be light in darkness.

3. Paul is writing this letter to the Ephesians from prison, how did he get there?

As Paul finished his third missionary journey, he traveled hastily to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. While undergoing a 7-day purification for his time spent with Greeks (a Nazirite Vow), a mob brought false charges against him for bringing a Greek into the temple and defiling it. Being a Roman citizen, the tribune was forced to send Paul to answer to the Roman council.

4. Unlike other letters, Paul did not write this letter to address any particular issue in the church (such as false teaching), rather it functioned as a reflective circular letter to all the churches in the area.

What can the modern church gain from this Pauline letter?

Every aspect of this letter is valuable for the modern church. It answers; Why worship? What is so amazing about grace? Why is the church a big deal? How do “new” people live? What is God’s plan for marriage? How do we fight? Etc.

5. What are the some of the main themes that you have discovered in this letter?

- Christ’s reconciliation of all things and all peoples
- The authority of Christ over all pagan practices and all false gods
- The purpose of the church
- The gift of grace through faith

6. Paul opens this letter with a greeting that states he is “an apostle of Christ Jesus.” What exactly is an apostle of Christ Jesus?

*Apostles* in biblical sense were those who had been with Jesus and seen the resurrected Christ.

They were chosen by God to lay the foundation of the church by preaching, teaching and writing Scripture accompanied by miracles.

7. What is Paul saying in verse 2?

He is expressing a short prayer of desired grace and peace over the believers in Ephesus.

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**