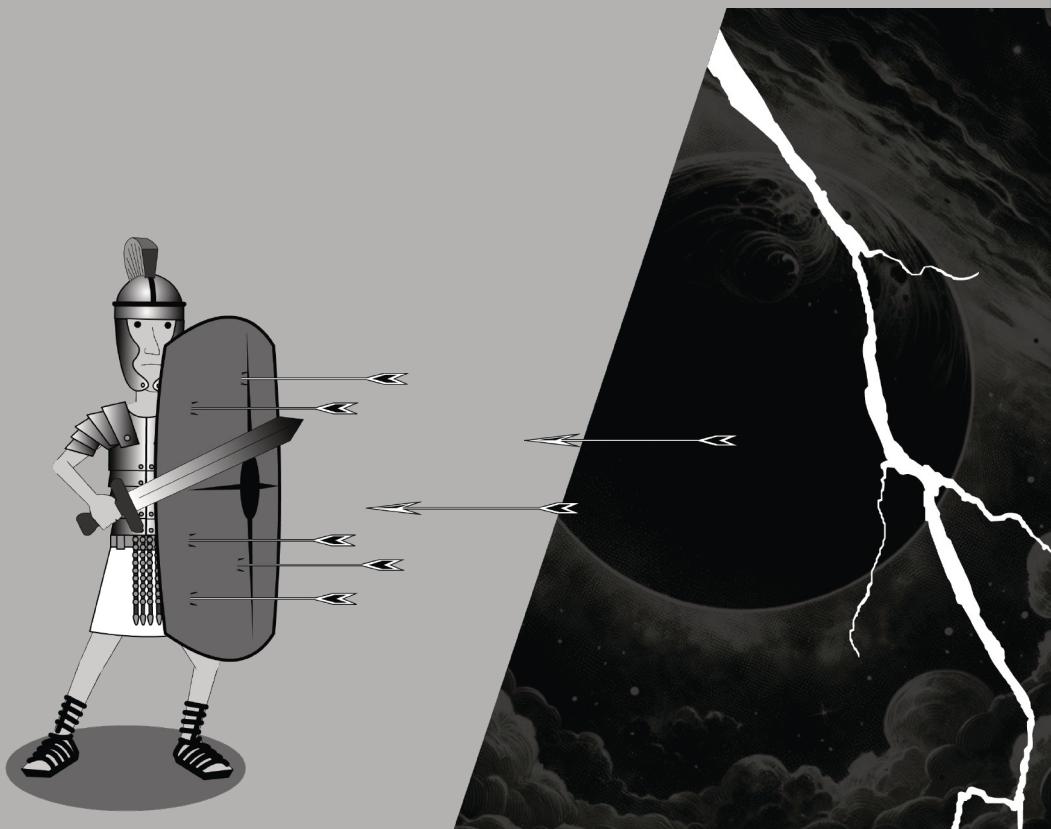


EPHESIANS

Become an Ambassador



Discipleship Guide



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Discipleship Methodology

be one. make one.

Read God's Word

Every part of the Bible is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, correcting mistakes, provide guidance, and instructs us in living righteously. By engaging with it, we become well-prepared and fully equipped to do good things.

Experience God's Word

God's Word is God-breathed. We not only read the scripture but experience the breath of God as it extends into our life. To fully embrace this divine inspired word, we should deeply ponder its meaning, internalize its teachings in our hearts and minds.

Pray

The Bible instructs us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. We are to sincerely pray about our discipleship, seeking guidance and understanding, and then put these teachings into action in our daily lives.

Ephesians

Become an Ambassador

Introduction

This discipleship guide is designed to lead you on a transformative journey towards becoming an ambassador for Christ, utilizing the Book of Ephesians as our guide. Through Ephesians, we will explore the divine purpose for humanity and the role of Christ in our redemption. This book encourages us to embody unity, maturity, and the role of ambassadors of Christ. Drawing upon Paul's letter, which is rich in ancient literary traditions, we aim to enrich your understanding of God's will and motivate a lifestyle deeply rooted in Christ's teachings.

Next



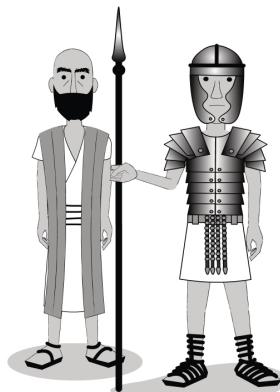
Watch
or
Read



Historical Background

While under house arrest in Rome, Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church about God's redemption through Christ, addressing conduct in church, home, and society.

Ephesus, a prosperous Roman port city in present-day Turkey, was known for its educational centers and strategic location, making it a vibrant hub of activity and religious thought.



Session 1

Summary

Paul used ancient techniques to write Ephesians. The purpose of using this technique was to enhance memory retention. Apostle Paul uses an "inversion pattern"

- A - Greetings
- B - Doctrinal
- b - Practical
- a - Closing

a mix of repetition and parallelism to emphasize a key idea, which is how to become an Ambassador of Christ.

Let's look at this interesting technique that Paul uses in a graphical way to see what Paul was imagining when he was writing Ephesians.

Section "A" - Greetings

As Paul begins his letter, he offers only a brief greeting before diving swiftly into the core of his message, eager to convey the revelation God placed on his heart.



Section "B" – Doctrinal

In this section, Paul gets into the theological depths. Paul presents two distinct but parallel paths, both leading to a significant conclusion. The first path unfolds the purpose of God, while the second path illuminates the purpose of Christ. But, it's the object of these two divine purposes that stand at the heart of Paul's message.

Path 1: What is the purpose of God?

Paul reveals God's nature to choose and predestine believers, highlighting His plan to unify all under Christ and extend grace to both Jews and Gentiles. This marks a significant revelation, with the Holy Spirit signifying believers' inheritance and aligning with God's purpose to restore and glorify the relationship with humanity through love and grace.

This is followed with Paul's first prayer. Paul prays for the community's spiritual enlightenment, expressing gratitude for their faith and seeking an understanding of God's purpose, echoing the power of Christ's resurrection.

Path 2: What is the purpose of Christ?

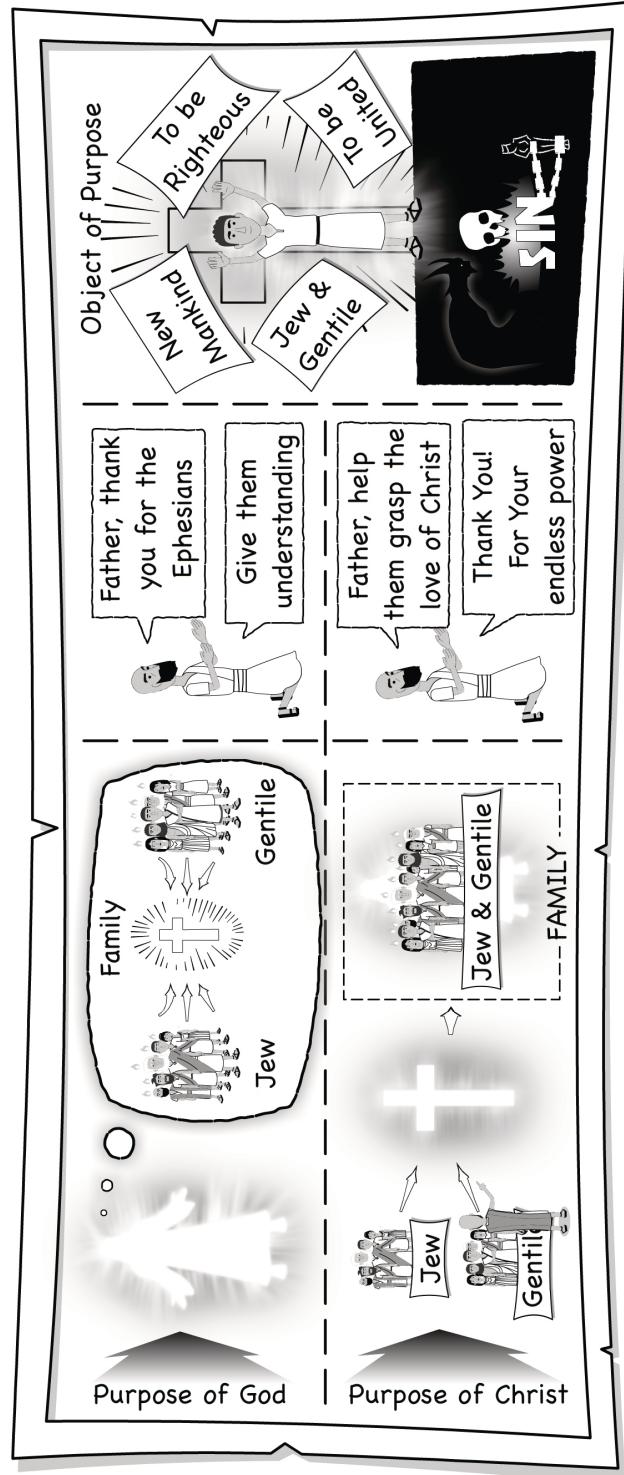
This section reveals Christ's purpose to enable all believers, including Gentiles, to approach God confidently through His atonement, emphasizing unity and redemption. Paul, chosen to reveal this inclusive plan, highlights Christ's role in uniting Israel and the Gentiles.

This is followed with Paul's second prayer. Paul prays for believers to be strengthened by the Spirit to understand Christ's love, praising God's eternal power and glory in the church and through Christ.

Emphasis – The object of the Purpose

As we journey along these two divergent paths, we discover God's purpose reveals humanity as central to His divine plan, focusing on redemption and unification. Chapter 2 explains how God's grace, not human deeds, offered salvation to all, merging Jews and Gentiles into one spiritual family under Christ, fulfilling His vision for a unified, redeemed humanity.

B - Doctrinal



Section "b" – Practical

In this section, Paul dives into the practical application of the previous theological discourse. It follows a similar structure to Part B. Let's get into it.

diary of spiritual growth

Path 1: Purpose in Society

Paul emphasizes the church as a unified body of diverse parts, Christ equips each part with gifts for growth and protection against false teachings. He underscores humility, patience, and collaboration, ensuring the church's development in love and truth under Christ's leadership.

Believers are guided to take off their old self for a new self, reflecting God's righteousness and holiness, involving renewal of the mind and living with integrity, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit's guidance. Through spiritual songs and thanksgiving, they are to reflect Christ's light in every aspect of their lives.

Path 2: Purpose in Family

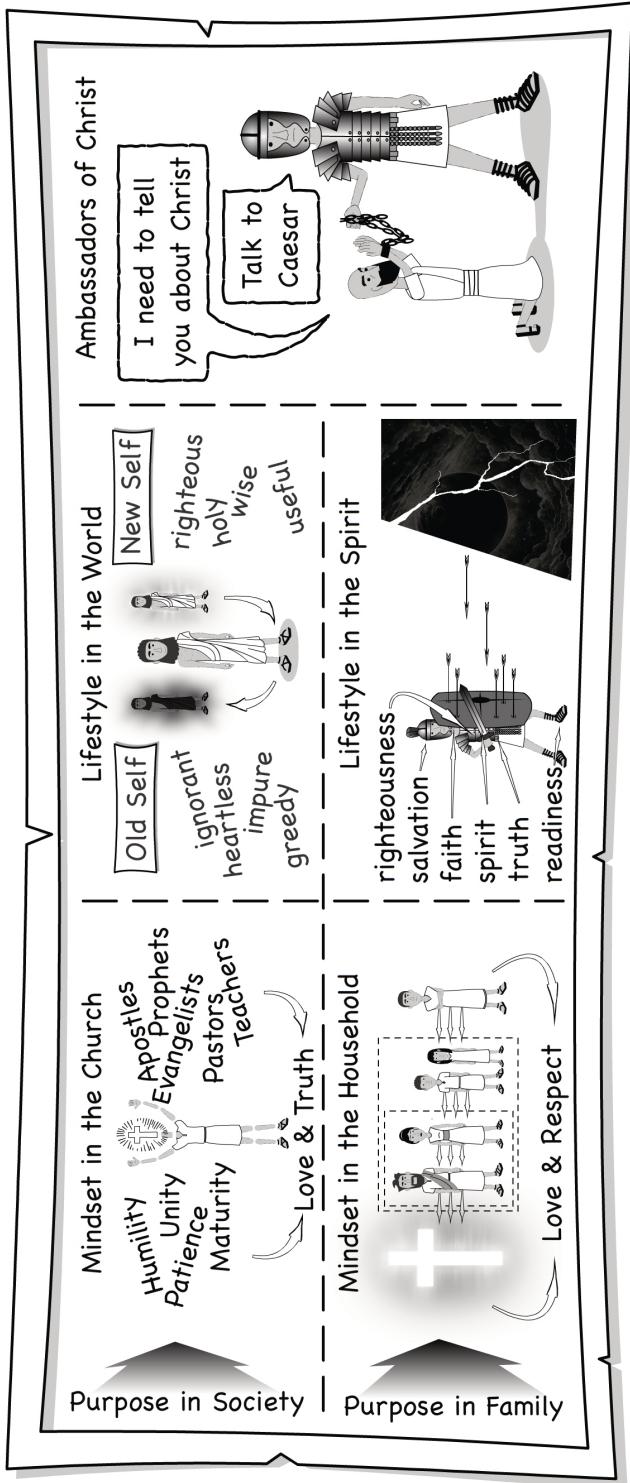
This section emphasizes mutual submission in relationships for Christ, advising wives to submit to husbands, husbands to love their wives, children to obey parents, and slaves and masters to treat each other with sincerity and justice, all under God's guidance to promote love, respect, and honor.

Paul urges believers to strengthen themselves in God's power and to put on the armor of God—truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Spirit's word—to combat spiritual evils. Believers are advised to stand firm in these virtues and spiritual armor.

Emphasis – Ambassadors of Christ

This section parallels section "B"; what is the purpose of all that we strive for? What is the purpose of aligning our thoughts and feelings and our lifestyle to that of Christ? In short, to pray in the spirit on all occasions and to be alert. The narrative brings us to the example of Paul, an ambassador for Christ, even while in chains. Through Paul's life, we are shown an ideal to aspire to – becoming ambassadors of Christ ourselves, regardless of our situations, just like Apostle Paul, who faithfully represented Christ in every circumstance.

4 - Practical



4:1-6:22

Section "a" - Closing

Paul ends with a very short and final greeting.

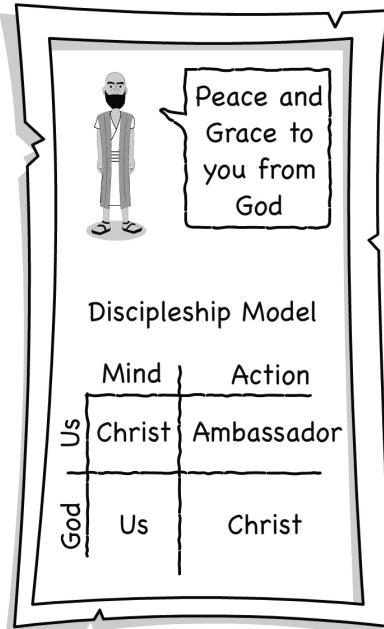
In the end, Paul gives Ephesians a model of how to become an ambassador of Christ.

1. Set your mind and desires on Christ in the same way God has set His mind and desires on humanity.

2. React to those feelings and thoughts by becoming an ambassador of Christ, in the same way that God reacted to His own thoughts and feelings by sending Jesus to Earth.

As we conclude, let's circle back to the ancient literary framework employed in this text, notably the introversion pattern. This structure, featuring parallel narratives placed side by side, serves to emphasize key points. Apostle Paul masterfully adopts this age-old technique to present us with a compelling model of discipleship. Through this, he skillfully guides us on the path to becoming true ambassadors of Christ.

a - Closing



6:23-24

Next

Read
Experience
Pray

Read God's Word: Ephesians 1:1-2

Experience God's Word:

God's Word is God-breathed. We not only read the scripture but experience the breath of God as it extends into our life. Think about it, chew on it, commit to it in your mind, pray to God about it and finally do it.

The following questions are designed to encourage reflection on your life, allowing you to pause and hear God speak to you.

1. Understanding there is a pattern in Ephesians does it help you understand God better and Why?

2. Why is it significant to understand patterns in our life and the influence they have on our personal discipleship?

3. Identify a few patterns in your life and how do these patterns highlight your identity and purpose in life?

4. Write an example or a testimony of when you represented Christ in some way and how did that make you feel?

5. In your opinion, how does one become an effective Ambassador of Christ?

Pray:

Spend around 10 minutes in prayer and reflection, considering everything you've heard and thought about. During this time, concentrate on connecting with God and be open to any thoughts or feelings that might come to you in return.

Record your thoughts, feelings and questions below.

Group Discussion:

If you are doing this as a group take the next 20-30 minutes to share, to encourage and to pray for each other.

Write down prayer requests and notes below.

Session 2

Devotional

In the heart of the Bible, within Paul's letter to the Ephesians, lies a message that resonates through time. It reads, "In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us" (Ephesians 1:7-9, paraphrased). This passage isn't just a collection of words; it's a gateway to understanding the vastness of God's plan. It's like discovering that God has this incredibly ambitious blueprint for the world - a plan that involves fixing what's broken and uniting people from all walks of life in a way that only He can.

This verse invites us to ponder the depth of God's love and the magnitude of His grace. It's a reminder that through Christ's sacrifice, we are not just forgiven; we are part of a larger narrative that spans the ages. It's a narrative of redemption, of turning the ordinary into extraordinary, and of weaving the diverse threads of humanity into a single, cohesive fabric.

Imagine a person sitting down to make a quilt. This isn't just any quilt - it's a patchwork of many fabrics. Some pieces are vibrant, bursting with color, while others are more subdued. Some are velvety soft, others rugged and coarse. Each piece, with its unique texture and hue, plays a crucial role in the quilt's beauty. The quilt-maker carefully selects and stitches these pieces together, creating a masterpiece greater than the sum of its parts.

This quilt is a metaphor for God's creation. Each of us is like a piece of fabric, distinct in our individuality. Our lives are threads in a larger design, each one significant, each one essential. The diversity of our experiences, our challenges, and our triumphs adds richness and depth to the overall picture. And at the center of it all, like the thread that binds the pieces, is Jesus Christ. His love and sacrifice are what hold this divine quilt together, turning a collection of individual pieces into a harmonious and purposeful whole.

What, then, is our role in this grand design? Just as each piece of fabric in a quilt has its place, so do we in God's world. We are called to embrace our unique position in His plan, living out the principles of

love, kindness, and forgiveness that Jesus exemplified.

Every act of kindness we show, every moment of forgiveness we offer, and every hand we extend in help adds to the beauty of God's quilt. We are not isolated patches, but integral parts of a larger picture. Our interactions with others, our choices, and our attitudes are the stitches that can either strengthen or weaken this fabric.

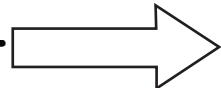
In our daily lives, this means looking beyond ourselves, recognizing our connection to others, and understanding that every action we take can contribute to the harmony and beauty of God's creation. Whether we're at home, at work, or in our communities, we have countless opportunities to add texture and color to the world around us.

By living in this way, we do more than just exist; we become active participants in God's grand narrative. We become part of something far greater than ourselves – a magnificent quilt that tells the story of God's love, grace, and redemption. Let us, therefore, embrace our role in this divine masterpiece, living each day as vibrant, integral pieces of God's magnificent quilt.

Review:

Reflect on previous session and share personal testimonies (applicable for group sessions).

Next



Read
Experience
Pray

Read God's Word: Ephesians 1:3 – 3:21

Experience God's Word:

God's Word is God-breathed. We not only read the scripture but experience the breath of God as it extends into our life. Think about it, chew on it, commit to it in your mind, pray to God about it and finally do it.

The following questions are designed to encourage reflection on your life, allowing you to pause and hear God speak to you.

1. What is something new that is being revealed to you about the nature of God, particularly in relation to choosing and predestining you in Christ?

2. Describe what role God's love and grace plays in unifying you with Christ?

3. What does being marked by the Holy Spirit mean to you, and how does it relate to God's ultimate purpose?

4. How does Christ's purpose empowers you to confidently approach God?

5. In your opinion, why is humanity identified as the central object of God's purpose, and what does our redemption signify in the context of God's divine plan?

Pray:

Spend around 10 minutes in prayer and reflection, considering everything you've heard and thought about. During this time, concentrate on connecting with God and be open to any thoughts or feelings that might come to you in return.

Record your thoughts, feelings and questions below.

Group Discussion:

If you are doing this as a group take the next 20-30 minutes to share, to encourage and to pray for each other.

Write down prayer requests and notes below.

Session 3

Devotional

Imagine getting advice from a wise friend who's seen a lot and knows a lot. That's kind of what it's like when we read what Paul wrote in the Bible. In Ephesians, Paul says, "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11, simplified). This is like him telling us how to be our best selves at church, with our friends, at home, and how to stay strong inside, even when things get tough.

Let's think about a soccer team for a minute. Every player on the team has their own role, right? The goalie, the striker, the defender – they all have different jobs, but they all aim for the same goal – to win the game! But what if everyone decided to do their own thing and not work together? They'd probably lose the game. Paul's advice is a bit like the strategy a coach gives to their team. He's telling us how to work together in our lives – in our churches, homes, and communities – so we can all succeed together.

Now, think about how this works in a church. Everyone has something they're good at. Some people are great at making others feel welcome, some are good at teaching, some can sing, and some are really good at helping out when things need to get done. Just like in a sports team, if everyone in church uses their spiritual gifts and works together, the church becomes a mature, joyful place.

Paul is encouraging us to live like we're part of Team Jesus. That means, at church, we're all playing on the same team, helping each other out and doing our part. But it's not just about church. When we're out in the world, maybe at school or work, we should try to be like Jesus – being kind to others, telling the truth, and doing the right thing, even when it's hard.

At home, it's like being on a mini-team. Treating our family members with love and respect is very important. It's like passing the ball in soccer – you have to work together to score. Paul tells us that everyone in the family has their own role, but everyone's equally important.

And then there's the part about being strong on the inside. Paul talks about wearing "God's armor". This doesn't mean putting on a metal suit like a knight; it's more like being mentally and spiritually strong. It means when life throws tough stuff at us – like feeling sad, dealing with bullies, or being tempted to do the wrong thing – we're ready to handle it. We stay true to what's good, just like a superhero sticking to their mission.

By doing all this, we're like champions for Christ. Think of it as being on Jesus' team and showing everyone what His team is like. We're playing our part, helping out, and spreading kindness and goodness wherever we go. So, let's aim to live like this every day. It's not always easy, but like in any game, the more we practice, the better we get. And in this game of life, being on Team Jesus makes us true champions!

Review:

Reflect on previous session and share personal testimonies (applicable for group sessions).



Read God's Word: Ephesians 4:1-6:22

Experience God's Word:

God's Word is God-breathed. We not only read the scripture but experience the breath of God as it extends into our life. Think about it, chew on it, commit to it in your mind, pray to God about it and finally do it.

The following questions are designed to encourage reflection on your life, allowing you to pause and hear God speak to you.

1. How is unity and diversity important to you and what role do you play in contributing to this unity?

2. What transformation is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to undergo, and how does this change affect your lifestyle in the world?

3. In your household what specific behaviors do you need to advocate for, and how do these behaviors change the atmosphere in your household?

4. What part of Gods armor do you need to put on, and how will this prepare you for spiritual challenges?

5. Define the role of an ambassador for Christ, and what qualities or actions that you can do to exemplify this role?

Pray:

Spend around 10 minutes in prayer and reflection, considering everything you've heard and thought about. During this time, concentrate on connecting with God and be open to any thoughts or feelings that might come to you in return.

Record your thoughts, feelings and questions below.

Group Discussion:

If you are doing this as a group take the next 20-30 minutes to share, to encourage and to pray for each other.

Write down prayer requests and notes below.

Session 4

Devotional

The heart of Apostle Paul's message in his letter to the Ephesians is summarized in his encouragement to live a Christ-centered life. Paul writes, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us" (Ephesians 5:1-2). This scripture is a powerful call to action, urging us to set our minds and desires on Christ, following the example of God's profound love for humanity.

Imagine a field of sunflowers under the bright summer day. These vibrant flowers do something remarkable: throughout the day, they turn their heads to follow the sun's path across the sky. This natural phenomenon, known as heliotropism, beautifully illustrates how we, too, should set our focus on Christ. Just as the sunflowers orient themselves towards the sun from dawn until dusk, we are called to orient our lives towards Christ, drawing strength, guidance, and nourishment from His presence.

The takeaway from Ephesians is clear and powerful. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ, mirroring God's proactive love in our daily lives. Just as God expressed His love through the sending of Jesus, we are encouraged to manifest our love for Christ through our thought life and actions.

Our role as Christ's ambassadors involves more than just belief; it is an active, living faith. It means showing kindness and compassion in our homes, workplaces, and communities. It involves standing firm in our values and beliefs, equipped with the armor of God, ready to face life's challenges with faith and courage.

In becoming ambassadors of Christ, we are challenged to not only believe in the teachings of Jesus but to live them out. We are called to a life of service, humility, and love, reflecting the light of Christ in every word we speak and every action we take.

Let us embrace this calling with joy and dedication, knowing that in doing so, we are fulfilling our highest purpose – to be reflections of Christ's love to the world around us. Let our lives be a testament to

the transformative power of living in Christ, just as the sunflowers stand as a testament to the life-giving power of the sun.

Review:

Reflect on previous session and share personal testimonies (applicable for group sessions).



Read God's Word: Ephesians 6:23-24

Experience God's Word:

God's Word is God-breathed. We not only read the scripture but experience the breath of God as it extends into our life. Think about it, chew on it, commit to it in your mind, pray to God about it and finally do it.

The following questions are designed to encourage reflection on your life, allowing you to pause and hear God speak to you.

1. What habits are you going to form to align your mind and desires with Christ, and how is this reflective of God's love and affection for you?

2. In what ways will you change to align your feelings and thoughts to effectively become an effective ambassador of Christ?

3. How does Paul's guidance in Ephesians help your journey to embody the role of an ambassador of Christ in your daily life?

Pray:

Spend around 10 minutes in prayer and reflection, considering everything you've heard and thought about. During this time, concentrate on connecting with God and be open to any thoughts or feelings that might come to you in return.

Record your thoughts, feelings and questions below.

Group Discussion:

If you are doing this as a group take the next 20-30 minutes to share, to encourage and to pray for each other.

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