

Ephesians Series – Autumn 2020 Including Life **Group Leaders Brief**

Taken from the book **Ephesians: How Jesus creates a New People in a New World** by Brad Wilson

‘How Jesus creates a new people in a new world’

A major series preaching through this book, with each message formed of three parts:

- Head – Renewal of our minds by the knowledge of God
- Heart – Restoration of our souls by the application of this truth
- Hands – Transformation of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit

There are eight parts (weeks) each has a reading(s) a brief synopsis and some suggested questions.

Please note that the first three parts all have two sections, the remaining parts one section each.

Suggested questions for life groups have been **highlighted**.

Part 3 - A church for God’s mission (3:1-13)

Head

Those who follow Jesus join His mission by making disciples of all ethnic groups by going, teaching and baptising (Mathew 28: 18-20)

We are called ambassadors and reconcilers (2Cor.5: 17-20)

See Isaiah 52:7.

The good news is not just for us, but for the whole world, we should live on mission!

We cannot separate our identity in Christ from our purpose in Christ.

We should be rejoicing that we can approach God in freedom and confidence.

Do we look at the church as a ‘safe place’? A place we meet together to reaffirm our beliefs & doctrine?

Heart

It is a privilege to be able to share God’s good news to a world with no hope.

Vs7 Paul sees it as a gift of God’s grace that he has become a servant of the gospel. Is that how we see it?

Our hope in Christ is certain, not like the relativism of the world we live in.

What makes us hesitate to share the gospel? comfort, security, significance, pain, lack of conviction?

Hands

Paul longed to keep sharing the gospel, he was compelled to do so.

See: Philippians 1:12-14, 18, 21. 1 Corinthians 9:16.

How can we individually and together embrace this calling, to be bold in sharing this message of Ephesians to not just each other, but with our friends and neighbours?

Part 3 continued and with high expectations (3:14-21)

Head

Before Paul urges the church to live according to their calling, he prays a very significant prayer, that we may:

- be strengthened with power as He lives in us
- know the extent of God's love
- we may be rooted in His love

Revival comes to a city, town, church as each individual allows God to change them. So often our prayers are asking God to help us in our current circumstances. There is another sort of prayer that focuses on the Holy Spirit changing us rather than our circumstances.

Do we share Paul's focus on striving to see our community presented complete in Christ?

Heart

Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. What does this mean? How do we go about making this happen?

How will our hearts change as Christ lives in us? See Philippians 1:6.

How do we understand God's love?

In what areas do we need the Spirit's power to help us understand?

Hands

Thinking back through the first three chapters of Ephesians if all of this is true then how should we live individually and together as church, and do we have to do anything differently?