

Connect Group Discussion Guide

LEADER
EPHESIANS - PT 4
10/4/2026

PASSAGE SUMMARY

The unifying point of this part of Paul's letter is **Ephesians 3:10**. It states that, through the church, God's manifold wisdom is made known to rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Wow!

This multi-faceted wisdom of God appears in **Christ, the church's foundation**. It appears in new humanity--a combination of Jews and Gentiles together. It also appears in Paul as a builder.

As we embrace the pattern and plan of God's wisdom, we can submit to it and embrace its mysteries.

WARM UP

Open your group time with casual fellowship/questions. Taking a few minutes to connect before jumping into discussion helps create an environment where people feel known, valued, and ready to engage. See [Series Introduction](#) for tips and ideas.

READ THE PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:14-3:13 in ESV

Read the passage in the ESV then read it in a different version that might help explain it simply, like the NLT or NIV.

See if your group can summarize the main points of the text, rephrasing the passage in their own words.

ENGAGE WITH THE PASSAGE

1. What has Christ done to bring peace where there was once hostility?

This is less about a feeling of peace and more about an actual peace. Where there was once hostility between Jews and Gentiles, He becomes the center of a new unified people made up of both groups. Further, He is bringing us peace with God--not just with each other--and brought one Spirit to make us all fellow citizens AND member's of God's household.

BACKGROUND

Ephesus was founded around 1050 BC, when the local Anatolians and the invading Ionians created a culture that mingled and influenced each other over time. (See today's verses on merging two peoples as one!)

After Croesus invaded in 560 BC, the city changed hands a few times, including Alexander the Great in 344 BC. It was strategic to capture in battles because of its international trade port.

It is the last point on the Royal Road, connecting the area to the sea.

TIPS FOR YOUR CONVERSATION

- You don't have to fill every silence. Ask the question, give people time to think, and resist the urge to answer it for them. Use a simple follow-up like, "What makes you say that?" or "Where do you see that in the passage?"
- You don't have to have all the answers, just help your group discover God's truth together!
- If someone asks something that isn't central to the passage, acknowledge it and keep moving. You can say, "That's a great question. Let's come back to what Paul is emphasizing here."

2. Verse 19 says that we are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens and members of God's household. What are some of the rights, responsibilities, and changes that come with our new identity and status?

New groups: Think about adoption, family, house, citizen... see if searching those keywords in a Bible app leads you to answers to the question. Discuss how we can ask questions of the text and look throughout the Bible to learn more.

Established groups: As ideas come in, have participants find the scripture references that give examples of this. Some of these are major themes in the New Testament, but also see if you can find where they exist in the Old Testament (think Hosea, The Prodigal Son, and Psalms).

3. Look at 1 Corinthians 6:17-20 also. How do these verses align with Ephesians 2:20-21?

Ideas may vary here, but especially note that there's a sense in 1 Corinthians that it's talking about each of us individually and our personal bodies, where Ephesians is talking about the church as a collective body. The one connecting both is that our individual bodies are connected to God's Spirit, and that same Spirit unifies us into one body in Christ--the church.

4. What "us vs. them" divisions do we see around us? What would it look like for the gospel to break down those divisions in the church and in our connect group?

Be willing to imagine a kingdom of God made up of people who "were" all sorts of identities, but who are now adopted and brought into the kingdom of God. His wisdom in uniting factions and erasing hostility really does make HIM the peace, not the commonality the groups would naturally have or not have. We're not looking for "like-minded" or "similar" or "same" members of the body of Christ. We're looking for those called out of darkness by His marvelous light.

5. How is your boldness and confidence lately? Is it easy for you to see God's manifold wisdom from where you are right now?

Be willing to go first and be vulnerable on this one as a leader. It is important to be honest about when things are going well and also when we have doubts and concerns. God is able to handle it, and we can bring these things to Him. There may be someone in your group who is struggling or suffering, and being honest allows us to come together and support each other.

NEXT STEPS

As you consider your next step, reflect on:

- 1) How can we as a group support each other and grow in unity in Christ?
- 2) Where do I need to increase in faith and trust in God's wisdom?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Last week, we looked at seemingly impossible situations and brought them before God to place them in His hands. Is someone willing to share an impossible thing they placed in God's hands? Have they left it in His hands and continued to trust Him? Has God used that prayer in some way?

This week, think of someone you consider a "them"--someone not like you. Think of something that will trigger your mind to think of them--it could be a note on a mirror, an object in your home, or a word. Every time you notice that thing, pray a blessing for that person.