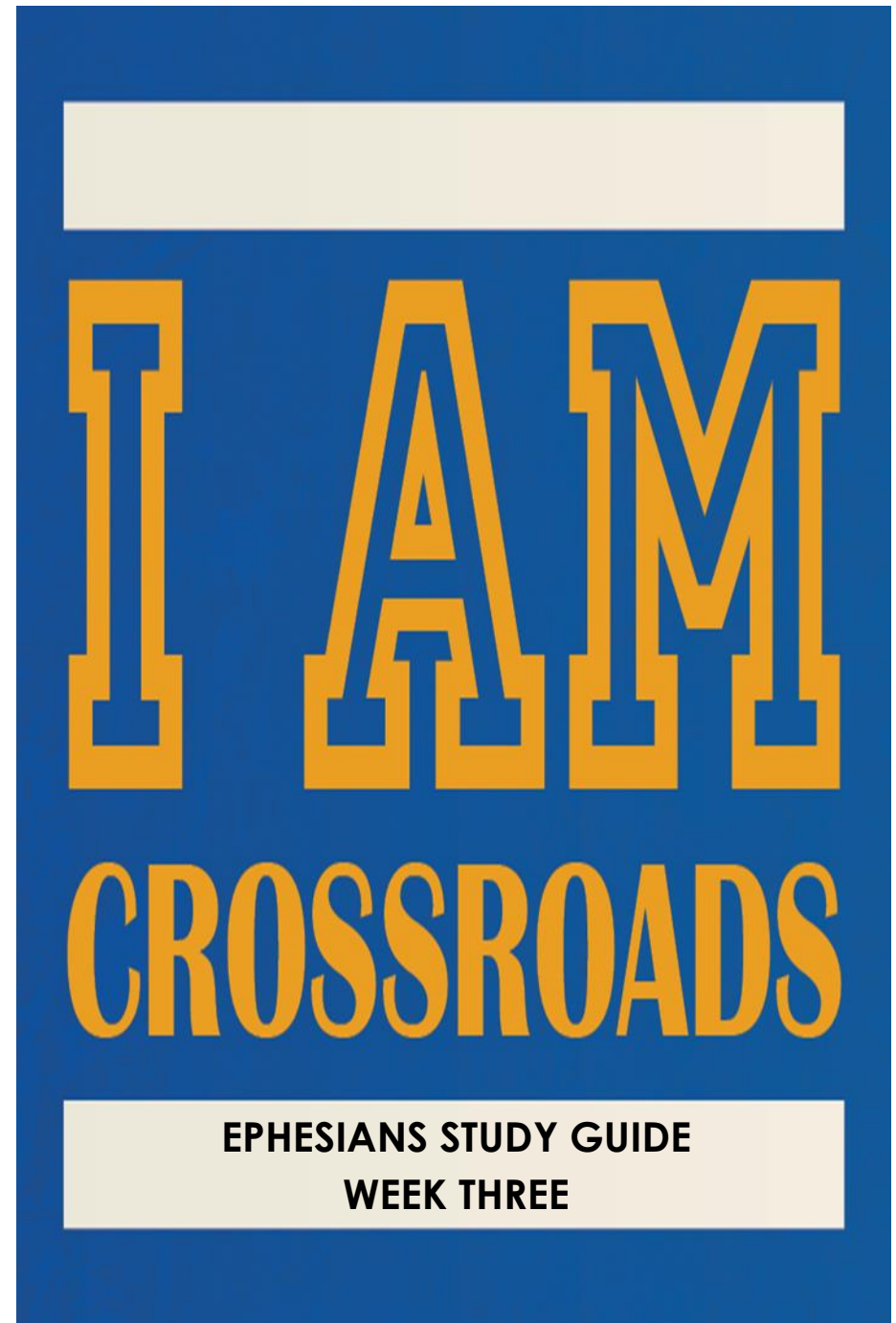


DAY 6

(see scripture from Day 4)

1. Verse 20 indicates that God can “do immeasurably more” than we could ask. What other way might our requests be made known and answered? What does this mean?
2. What verse meant the most to you in Ephesians 3?
3. What lesson have you learned from this study?



DAY 5

(see scripture from Day 4)

1. What do you think it means for Christ to dwell in your heart through faith (v.17)?

2. Can the love described in this passage be withdrawn? Why or why not? (see Romans 8:35-39)

3. How much can God do in answer to our prayers, according to verse 20?

4. What is God working in us, according to verse 20?

Day 4

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

1. In Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians, for what does he ask (v.14-19)
2. How strong must we be in order to exercise power? Why? (see 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Ephesians 6:10)
3. When Paul prays, he both keens and refers to God as the "Father" (v.14). What do these two aspects of this prayer indicate about our relationship with God?
 - a. Kneeling (see Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10-11)

This devotional is designed to be a resource for you to use as we go through the book of Ephesians during the "I AM CROSSROADS" series. Each week we will provide an in-depth study of the Scripture we discussed on Sunday morning. Each day is designed to take about ten minutes to help you think through and explore how you can apply the scripture to your life.

{Below is some background information to help you understand the purpose and role of the book Ephesians}

BACKGROUND ON EPHESIANS

AUTHORSHIP

Paul was born in Tarsus into Roman citizenship (Acts 22:28) and later educated under the illustrious rabbi, *"Saint Paul Writing His Epistles"* by Valentin de Boulogne (ca. 16th century) Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Zealous for the Law, Paul became the chief persecutor of the early church until his conversion when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Immediately, Paul began to proclaim Jesus as Savior, eventually focusing several missionary journeys to the Gentiles throughout Asia Minor. During his journeys, he traveled to Ephesus and ministered there for almost three years (Acts 20:31). After Paul departed from Ephesus, he left Timothy behind to combat false teaching (1 Timothy 1:3). At some later point, Paul wrote this letter while in prison either in Caesarea or Rome as one of his many "Prison Epistles" in A.D. 60-62.

DAY 3

BACKGROUND

Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of Ephesians (portions compiled from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*). Despite recent debate that the book was written by someone who did not use his own name but instead claimed to be Paul, there is no strong reason to reject Pauline authorship of the book.

RECEIPTS

Ephesus was a leading city on the west coast of Asia Minor. It essentially linked the western and eastern portions of the Roman Empire on the main highway and even possessed the most favorable seaport in the province of Asia. Due to its location within the Empire, Ephesus exerted great influence culturally, economically, and religiously. With a population over 300,000 people, Ephesus contained a theatre that seated an estimated 25,000 people. It became the center for worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana in Roman mythology), which often included temple prostitution. Her temple ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and became not just a center for worship but also the primary banking institution for all of Asia Minor. As a result, Paul's apostolic ministry that turned people to Christ and away from Artemis represented a significant financial threat to temple-related businesses like that of the silversmith, Demetrius (Acts 19:23-41). Ephesus also became a center of occult practice as many used magic, witchcraft, and sorcery to manipulate hostile spiritual powers to their advantage (Acts 19:11-20).

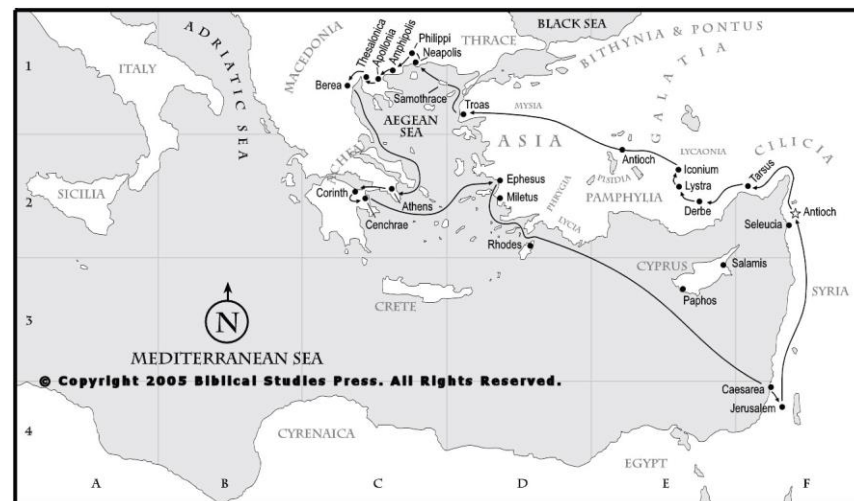
(see scripture from Day 1)

1. What was the intent for proclaiming the revelation of this mystery (v.10)?
2. According to what was all this being done (v.11)?
3. What has Christ therefore made possible for us (v.12)?
4. In view of God's grace given to Paul, what does he ask (v.13)?

DAY 2

(see scripture from Day 1)

1. What does Paul reveal concerning the revelation of his mystery (v.5)?
2. What is the “mystery” that has now been revealed (v.6)?
3. Paul uses the term “grace” several times. What does the term refer to here (v.2,7&8)?
4. Though viewing himself as “less than the least of all the saints”, what gracious test was given to Paul (v.8-9)?



The Mediterranean region as Paul traveled to Ephesians for first time.

PURPOSE

Paul's letter to the Ephesian believers does not seem concerned with any particular heresies as we see in Galatians and Colossians or with any particular occurrences of immorality as in 1 Corinthians. Rather, Paul's purposes are to declare the glory of God and the extravagant riches given to the Church. Paul focuses on the call, identity, and conduct of the Church, the body of Christ, throughout this rich epistle.

Weekly memory verse: Ephesians 3: 17-18

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,”

DAY 1

Ephesians 3:1-13

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. 13 I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

1. What are the main points of this scripture in your own words?
2. Central to the passage is something which Paul refers to as a “mystery”. Circle all the uses of this word in the text, and describe this mystery in your own words.
3. How did Paul identify himself as he begins this chapter (v.1)?
4. What measure of grace was shown by God toward Paul (v.2-3)?
5. In vs. 3&4, what does Paul say that we can understand by reading this scripture?