

Curriculum



Ephesians ***God's Intent***

To Know Him
To Change You
Fulfill Your Mission
Trained to Play
Imitate Him
Equipped for Battle

A sample of the Ephesians curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Ephesians

This 6-part study is designed to help you understand what God intended for your life – who you are, what you are meant to do, and practical ways to live a God-honoring life. Topics include:

1. **To Know Him**
2. **To Change You**
3. **Fulfill Your Mission**
4. **Trained to Play**
5. **Imitate Him**
6. **Equipped for Battle**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

Serving A Purpose

Kenneth Blanchard co-wrote a little book called *The One-Minute Manager*. The book was a huge success; it ended up on the New York Times bestseller list and sold millions of copies. Overnight, he became a celebrity in the business world. Later, he said that during this time he realized that he had two choices. One was to take all the credit for his success and assume that he was a better writer and more insightful thinker than anyone else. The other was to take the path of wonderment. He asked himself, "Why has this happened to me, and what can I learn from it?" As an observer of his own success, he was better able to manage the pitfalls and challenges that came with it. Ken realized that if we're not careful, we will act like we are the center of the universe. That's why he refused to allow himself to be too important in his own eyes.

The same is true of Paul. He adopted this attitude: I am not an important person, but I have an important job to do. Paul was consumed with a mission. His purpose in life wasn't just to be a religious person and preach in church on Sunday. His purpose was to save souls, change lives, and bring about worldwide racial equality through the ministry of the church.

Paul was Jewish, and like most Jewish men of his time, he grew up with the notion that there were two types of people in the world: Jews, who were God's chosen people, and everyone else. In the early days of the church, most Jewish Christians would have been content to let Christianity remain as Jewish as possible. Paul couldn't do it, though. After his face-to-face meeting with Jesus, he recognized that he had a purpose in life – to tell Gentiles about Jesus and bring them into the church. This made Paul extremely unpopular in certain circles, but he never let go of the mission to which God had called him.

What about you? What is your mission? God has given you a purpose. That purpose isn't created to serve you – you are created to serve that purpose. We need to get past the idea that we deserve or need an easy life. Instead, our attitude must be, "I am not an important person, but I have an important job to do, and I will serve my purpose."



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Acts 9:1-21](#). How did Saul's conversion to Paul change his mission in life?
2. Read [Ephesians 3:1-6](#). What is Paul's mission?
3. Read [Ephesians 3:7-13](#). What do you notice about Paul's attitude toward his mission?
4. Read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#). What is God's greatest resource that He most wants you to have?
5. Re-read [Ephesians 3:18-19](#). How is living in God's love the key to power?

Application Question: What are some ways that you can fulfill the mission God planned for you when he placed you where you are right now?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read [Acts 9:1-21](#). How did Saul's conversion to Paul change his mission in life?



Paul stopped persecuting Christians and instead gave his life to preaching the gospel. In Romans, Paul referred to himself as the "bondservant" or "slave" of Christ. In Ephesians, he called himself "the prisoner of Christ Jesus." In [Ephesians 3:7](#) he said, "I became a servant of the gospel."



One of the greatest gifts God has given us is the opportunity to start again – and without exception, we all need a fresh start from time to time. The apostle Paul certainly did. We call him St. Paul, and many churches are named after him, but the fact is that there was a time in his life when he was anything but a saint. From that day in Damascus, Paul was a new man. He wasn't perfect, he still made mistakes and committed sins, but his life took on a new direction, and the world wasn't been the same since.

Notes:

2) Read [Ephesians 3:1-13](#). What is Paul's mission?



Paul was God's "chosen instrument" ([Acts 9:15](#)), to share His grace and mercy with the Gentiles – helping them understand their equality with Christ Jesus.



God reveals things in His perfect timing and Paul refers several times to the "mystery" that is being revealed through him – God's offer of salvation to *all* people. "The nations are heirs to the promises that God gave to the Jews, which the Jews until now had thought belonged to them exclusively. That phase of God's plan had been hidden until the coming of Christ, though He had purposed it from the beginning (1:5); but now it is fully revealed, namely that God's future world of glory will be built, not only out of the Jewish nation, but from all mankind."¹ See also [1 Corinthians 2:7-12](#).

Notes:

¹ Halley's Bible Handbook: NIV. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007, p. 730.

3) Read [Ephesians 3:7-13](#). What do you notice about Paul's attitude toward his mission?



Paul had a sense of wonder about the calling God had placed on his life. He didn't fool himself into thinking that he was doing God a favor by serving him.



Paul says, "I am less than the least of all the Lord's people." But from a theological standpoint, Paul knew this statement was inaccurate. He knew better than anyone that all individuals are equal in God's eyes. In fact, equality was the very heart of his message. He knew God shows no partiality, and he himself was no worse than anyone else. The word Paul repeatedly used to describe God's work in his life was "grace." Grace literally means an undeserved favor.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: Do you tend to have a sense of wonder at what God has done in and through you – looking for opportunities where you are, OR do you tend to focus on your lot in life?

Notes: *There are two temptations we must resist. The first is an attitude of smugness – thinking that we're really something and that God is lucky to have us on his team. The second is an attitude of "Why me?" complaining about our lot in life: "Why couldn't I have been born rich? Or handsome? Or talented?" In many ways life seems to be unfair. Some are born to prosperity, others to poverty. Some are born with talent, some aren't. As we look at our own lives, we need to have a sense of wonder. We need to ask ourselves, "Why did God place me in this time, this place, this situation? What can I learn from it, and what does he expect me to do about it?"*

4) Read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#). What is God's greatest resource that He most wants you to have?



God most wants you to have the ability to know His love.



He takes love so seriously that He defines Himself by it. The Bible says God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). To experience the fullness of God in your life – which includes experiencing His power at work within you – you need to develop at least an inkling of the awesomeness of His love, although in this lifetime we will only, at most, scratch the surface of understanding God's love.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: What has most helped you grasp God's love for you and how can you use this understanding to motivate you in your mission?

Notes:

5) Re-read [Ephesians 3:18-19](#). How is living in God's love the key to power?



To the extent that we understand His love, we experience His power.



To fulfill any mission the Lord places before us, we must be tapped into His love and power – power over sin, weakness, fear, shame, despair, rage, lust, greed, pride, doubt, guilt, etc. These are the things that trip us up,

beat us down and make our lives miserable and keep us from focusing on Him. But God promises His power, it is available to us and all we have to do is yield to His love. See also [Romans 8:38-39](#).

Notes:

Application Question: What are some ways that you can fulfill the mission God planned for you when He placed you where you are right now?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: How will I utilize my most powerful resource – God’s love – to help me understand why He may have placed me in this job, this family, this community, and/or the church? What is He trying to teach me and/or what does He expect me to do for Him?

Sample



PRAYERS

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LEARN

When Paul awakened to God's calling it changed every aspect of his life as he took his place in God's mission. Paul didn't give in to self-importance, instead he never lost his sense of wonder that God allowed him to be part of His work in the world. Paul prays that the Ephesians recognize and surrender to God's love, out of which they will receive an abundance of power for God's mission and their lives.

Scripture References for this study: [Acts 9:1-21](#), [1 Corinthians 2:7-12](#), [John 4:8](#), [Romans 8:38-39](#) & [Ephesians chapter 3](#)



LIVE

- The wakening to our place in God's mission
- The wonder of our participation in God's mission
- The wealth of our power in God's mission

Application Question: What are some ways that you can fulfill the mission God planned for you when He placed you where you are right now?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: How will I utilize my most powerful resource – God's love – to help me understand why He may have placed me in this job, this family, this community, and/or this church? What is He trying to teach me and/or what does He expect me to do for Him?

Sample