

Week 1: The Struggle in Ephesus Leader Guide

Watch:

If your _____ is not in Christ, you will be dissatisfied. You were made for a relationship with God through Christ.

When you become a _____, you become a new person. You get a new identity.

We have to keep feeding our souls with _____.

Are you enjoying the _____ of being in Christ?

You need your _____ to be enthralled with the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

If you love Jesus deeply, it will change your _____ dramatically.

Discuss:

Use the following statements and questions to discuss the video.

The most basic yet important question you can ask yourself right now is “Am I in Christ?” The Book of Ephesians is an amazing place to discover who Jesus is and who He created you to be.

How have you seen someone’s behavior change when they started a new relationship?

How does your relationship with Jesus change the way you live your life?

If you’ve been following Jesus for a number of years, how have things changed since your early years of faith?

Read Ephesians 1:1-2 aloud with the group

Paul, an apostle, wrote this book and started his greeting with the words “Grace to you and peace...” (V2)

How does knowing you’re covered in grace and peace affect the way you see yourself?

When we read the Bible, we may feel there’s a great detachment between the lives of the people in Scripture and our lives. But the culture Paul describes in the Book of Ephesians is hauntingly similar to ours today.

In what things (For example, activities, relationships, personas) does the culture tell us to find our identity?

According to the video, what did the apostle Paul do in an effort to change the culture in Ephesus? What happened as a result?

How should living in the reality of a new identity change the way you –

Interact at work?

Receive criticism?

View success?

Vacation?

It's easy to see following God as a relationship that limits what we do in life. As you read the Bible, you see the Ten Commandments and a slew of other rules that keep you from doing things. You may be tempted to say, "I wish God would let me ...". But the reality is that being a follower of Jesus and rooting our identity in Him afford us many privileges.

As a follower of Christ whose identity is rooted in Him, what privileges do you have that others don't?

As we dive in to this first week's study, you may have some apprehensions. Or excitement. Or questions.

What are your hopes or expectations for this study of Ephesians?

We all have hopes and expectations in starting this study. God has hopes and expectations for us too.