



Sermon Discussion Guide

Introduction to Ephesians - Tim Knipp

September 29, 2024

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
 - What is something beautiful that you experienced during this past summer?
 - What are your hopes and dreams for this next season in this small group especially as we go through Ephesians?
 - As we enter into this next portion of our journey as a small group, what is it that you need to flourish?

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
 - Watch the Bible Project overview video on Ephesians (<https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q?si=fv-QMz pHfXW3EdGy>)
 - Read Ephesians 1:1-3 and 6:21-24
 - What did you notice about the opening and closing of this letter?
 - Why do you think there is such an emphasis on grace and peace given the context and structure of the letter?
 - Why do you think Paul would want to have that emphasis in a circular letter?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- *(For this next portion please have writing and drawing material available such as paper, pens, crayons, etc...)*
 - For this next portion we are going to take 5-10 minutes to draw, write, or otherwise creatively express what a circular letter to the church in Bellingham/Whatcom County might look like. As you create, consider what the introduction might be. How would the story of the gospel be emphasized? What exhortations would there be in the midst of our cultural, political, economic, or spiritual context? What vision of a redeemed Bellingham/Whatcom County look like?
 - Once we have creatively expressed (likely not completely) our responses we will share the things we highlighted.

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
 - Over the course of this week what would it look like for us to live out the prayer and hope expressed in the letters we wrote?
 - How can we grow in the awareness of our particular context?
 - What does receiving grace and peace in the midst of our situations look like for us?
 - Where can we put our circular letters (finishing them if we need to) where they will serve as a reminder to pray and work out said prayer?

Time of Prayer