
Next Week's Life Group: Made for More, Study in Ephesians

Next Week's Story: Ephesians 4

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



**MADE
FOR
MORE**

A STUDY THROUGH EPHESIANS

**WEEK 3
MAY 11 & 12**

**LIFE
GROUPS
GUIDE**

MADE FOR MORE

and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

Ephesians 3:9

GETTING STARTED

In the event of a disaster, what possession would you grab for safe keeping?

STORY BACKGROUND

In the later years of Jesus' ministry, He began talking in parables to His followers. A parable is described as an earthly story (hidden treasures, pearls, nets, etc.) with a heavenly meaning (the value of the Kingdom of God). There are 35 parables recorded in the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus explained His use of parables in Matthew 13:34-35 - to fulfill the prophecy found in Psalm 78:2 "*for I will speak to you in a parable*". They were meant to reveal the truth to those who wanted to know the truth, and to conceal the truth from those who were indifferent to it. For example, the Pharisees already had a preconceived bias against Jesus' teaching and dismissed the parables as nonsense. But Jesus made sure His disciples understood the meaning of the parables (Mark 4:34), and through the Scriptures we can read about their heavenly meaning today.

WHAT IS SALVATION?



STORY: Matthew 13:44-50 (Story)
Ephesians 3 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 16:25

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What are the three things Jesus uses to describe the kingdom of Heaven?
- What is the parallel in the first two parables?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- How valuable to you is the kingdom of Heaven? Try to speak practically.
- Are you willing to be like the characters in the first two parables and sell off all of your possessions in order to obtain heaven? Describe something of value you have had to give up.



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- What can you do today to treat the Kingdom of God as you would treat something of value?
- What are you willing to let go of to gain something more precious?