

Cell Group Bible Study Outline

Scripture: Intro to Ephesians and Ephesians 1:1-3

Main Point(s) in Lesson: Ephesians is for believers; Paul wrote with joy despite his circumstances

Ice Breakers:

What is the worst food you've ever tasted?

Have you ever left out an important ingredient and ended up with something disgusting?

Transition:

Ice Breaker: On a practical level, have you ever been told exactly how to do something (dating advice, cooking, studying, sports, etc.) and didn't listen only to regret it?

Question: Where do you turn when looking for life's questions or the "recipe" to life...honestly?

-Ephesians is filled with answers to life's questions

Background & Setting (gain the listener's attention/interest...make them see why this is important to them):

**Asking questions during this section can really help. Make this part interesting and if possible relate it to real life.

*Look at Acts 19 to see background

1. Who was Paul?

-formally Saul (persecuter Christians); became great missionary after salvation

2. Paul was traveling through modern day Turkey and visited Ephesus with Timothy and Erastus

-Can anyone describe where Turkey is?

-Ephesus is compared to Las Vegas; lots of temple worship; 2nd biggest city in empire

-home of Temple of Artemis (goddess of fertility)

Question: How is our culture/country similar to Ephesus? What are our sacred gods?

3. Apollos was a follower of JTB who didn't get the memo about Jesus' death and resurrection

* have them sum up 1-7

4. Acts 19:21-41

*people started getting saved and stopped buying idols and souvenirs from the temple

*this angered Demetrius who lost money from it (25-27)

*it caused an uproar in the city, even though they didn't even know why (32)

*After traveling on, Paul would be arrested and put in jail; from jail that he writes this letter

Heart of the Lesson:

Verses 1-2:

Question: What is an apostle? (seen risen Christ and given a commission by him)

Question: What does this mean to see Paul's name and "apostle" next to it?

-testimony of grace; gave clarification between the old teachings of Apollos

*Written to all Christians.

Question: How do we know this and why is knowing this important?

-especially when you hear the term "you" or "we" (read 2:10; 3:20)

Verse 3: Paul now begins his letter with reminders that they are blessed.

Question: Why do you think this is he opens with that? (unity in Christ; optimism?)

Application:

Question: After seeing what all Paul went through does it change the way you look at life? How was it that Paul was able to have that joy?

Question: What are some things that you can be thankful to God for?

*Have group spend time and meditate on the greatness of God and all He has done for us even despite our sin.

Also, remind group that His blessings are only for the saved (Ephesians was written to CHRISTIANS!).

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