

**ReEngaging Ephesians**

**Monday, 1/12/09 – Read Ephesians 1:1-22**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: This week we pick up our study of Ephesians, and we'll use this week to read again the first five chapters and to review some of Ephesians' central ideas. ... Read through all of chapter 1, then focus your attention on verses 5-10. ... You have a destiny, and so does the entire universe. It is God's purpose in Christ to adopt us as his own children and to bring together everything, literally everything!, in harmony. ... For now we live in fractured, fragmented, and conflicted world. It's easy to become cynical, to conclude that the world is just never going to get any better. To trust God is to live with hope -- that somehow, someday, God is going to bring harmony to all this chaos. ... If you began living with hope, what is one thing that would be different about your life today. Write it down.

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**Tuesday, 1/13/09 – Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: The clear, central promise of Christian faith is that our relationship with God is purely a gift. It's not something that we earn. That's what we mean by grace -- a gift freely given. ... God's love for you is a gift freely given. ... Think back over the last week. Have you been living as one who is loved by God? How could you claim that a bit more in the next week?

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**Wednesday, 1/14/09 – Read Ephesians 2:11-22**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: The grace of God (God's gift of unearned love) always draws us into community with others, even with others we may not like very much or feel an antipathy toward. As you think about your life, how is God challenging you to expand your community? Is there someone God is challenging you to include, someone difficult for you to accept?

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**Thursday, 1/15/09 – Read Ephesians 3:1-21**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: After you've read all of chapter 3, focus on verse 16. ... Today's reading is a prayer. Think of it as a prayer for you. Let yourself feel that: the Bible praying for you! ... And the prayer is that you will be "strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit." ... What do you think that means -- to be internally strong? Think of someone you have known who seemed to you internally strong, spiritually strong. What was it about them that suggested inner strength? ... As you pray today, pray for inner strength.

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**Friday, 1/16/09 – Read Ephesians 4:1-16**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Our modern tendency is to think of faith individualistically. But Ephesians is so very concerned about how together in community we become "the body of Christ." ... Does that make sense to you, to think of our community of faith as Christ's body, as the embodiment of Christ? ... What difference would it make if you looked at your

church that way? What would you do differently? What should we together do differently?

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**Saturday, 1/17/09 – Read Ephesians 4:17--5:20**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Ephesians is concerned not only for what we think and know and believe but also about how we live. As you read through this section of Ephesians, what kind of life does it seem to be recommending? ... Find one specific suggestion in this section that you'd like to put into practice in your own life. Write that suggestion down along with one specific action you can take this week.

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**Sunday, 1/18/09 – Read Ephesians 5:21--6:9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: First and most important, notice verse 5:21 -- "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." This is the essential principle: all our relationships need to express a willingness and a desire to serve others. ... The passage then applies this principle to marriage relationships (5:22-33), to parent-child relationships (6:1-4), and to master-slave relationships (6:5-9). ... Think about some of your relationships. Can you identify a relationship where you need to serve the other person better?

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*My Faith Journal*, January 11, 2009

Becoming Grownups #11

***Where We Were When***

**In today's service and message, what do I hear God saying to me?**

**What action do I intend to take as a result of what I hear God saying to me?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*