



Resource Guide

Here is a suggested reading guide that will take you through eight weeks of our series **A Place to Belong**.

Week 1 - Read through the letter to the Ephesians one chapter a day focusing on what Paul is saying about the church – the last day, read the letter in one sitting.

Week 2 – Read through the letter to the Colossians one chapter a day and make note of verses that sound similar to the letter to the Ephesians. These two letters were written at the same time and have similar messages. Both were written to be circular letters that were to circulate through the churches in Asian Minor. One day read the letter in one sitting. Then the next day read the letter to the Ephesians in one sitting. The last day read any particular verses in both letters that you have marked in your previous reading.

Week 3 – Read Acts 18 one day and then read Acts 19 the next. Make note of the information about the church in Ephesus. Then read Ephesians 1 and 2 each day for the rest of the week.

Week 4 – Read Ephesians 3 each day this week. Each day look for something new to think about in this chapter. Learn to pray the prayer that Paul is praying here by praying it for others you know, those who are close to you, and for yourself. Pray that they might know the full extent of God's love.

Week 5 – Read a chapter a day of Ephesians again and this time mark specific things that God brings out to you for our church. Make sure you pray for our church as we move in that direction. The last day read through chapter 4 noting ways that we can work to keep the unity of the spirit as we allow our leaders to equip us to do ministry.

Week 6 – Read Ephesians chapter 4 again looking for specific things that you might need to “take off” in your life and specific things you might need to “put on” in your life. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), one chapter a day, noting how we as the church need to act. The for the last 3 days, read Luke 6, 10, and 15 making note of the lessons Jesus is trying to teach the church.

Week 7 – Read chapter 5 of Ephesians and think through how you can follow God's example. Day 2 read chapter 5 again and think through this day how you can be careful how you live. Day 3 read Ephesians 5:21-6:9 and evaluate how you treat those in your family and those at work. What changes are needed? Day 4- read Colossians 3:15-4:1 and evaluate again your relationships with your family and co-workers. Day 5 read again chapters 1-2 of Ephesians. Day 6 reread chapters 3-4 of Ephesians. Day 7 reread chapters 5-6 of Ephesians.

Week 8 – Read chapters 18-22 of the book of Revelation, one chapter a day. Note the spiritual battle we are in and how we win in the end. Day 6 read and reread Ephesians 6:10-24 and make note of how we are to do battle everyday. Reread those same verses again on day 7 and make resolutions for how you will put on the armor each day of your life.

Resource Books

- "Church in the Middle – Stepping outside the building to reach the world of tomorrow" – by Roland Daniels
- "The Irresistible Church – 12 Traits of a Church Heaven Applauds" – by Wayne Cordeiro
- "Signals At the Crossroads – The Church of God in the 21st century" – by Gilbert Stafford
- "The Good and Beautiful Community – Following the Spirit, extending grace, demonstrating love" – by James Bryan Smith
- "Meditations on Ephesians – a verse by verse devotional commentary" – by Leonard Wolcott
- "Ephesians; The Glory of the Church" – by Homer A Kent, Jr.