



**2026 Spiritual Growth Campaign  
Small Group Workbook  
By Louie Marsh & Brie McRae**



**Small Group Lessons  
The Incomparable Christ  
Part 1: Paul's Prayer Eph. 1:15-23  
By Louie Marsh**

**OPEN WITH PRAYER:**

**Discussion Starter:** How is your prayer life doing? Do you find it hard to make time to pray? What are your prayers focused on? Do you think your prayers are anything like Paul's prayers?

**IF I'M AUTHENTICALLY SPIRITUAL I...**

**1) Respond to God's Work with \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you... Ephesians 1:15-16a (ESV)*

**2) Always seek God for deeper \_\_\_\_\_**

*<sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, Ephesians 1:16-17 (ESV)*

- **I have a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"I believe in the Kingdom come  
Then all the colors will bleed into one  
Bleed into one  
But yes, I'm still running  
You broke the bonds  
and you loosened chains  
carried the cross of my shame, of my shame  
You know I believe it  
But I still haven't found  
What I'm looking for..."*

Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For – Bono U2

**3) Constantly pray for the Spirit's ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, Ephesians 1:17 (ESV)*

- **The Goal is to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**4) Pray for authentic spiritual knowledge.**

*<sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened... Ephesians 1:18a (ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_

So the king sent horses and chariots and a large fighting unit there. They came at night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up in the morning and went outside, he saw troops, horses, and chariots surrounding the city. Elisha's servant asked, "Master, what should we do?" Elisha answered, "Don't be afraid. We have more forces on our side than they have on theirs." Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, please open his eyes so that he may see." The Lord opened the servant's eyes and let him see. The mountain around Elisha was full of fiery horses and chariots. 2 Kings 6:14-17 (GW)

- \_\_\_\_\_ – mind, will, emotion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - real through knowledge and experience.

**FOUR GREAT TRUTHS I NEED TO SEE:**

**1) THE PAST: God planned a great \_\_\_\_\_ for me.**

<sup>18</sup> ... that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you ...Ephesians 1:18b (ESV)

**2) THE FUTURE: My life ends \_\_\_\_\_!**

<sup>18</sup> ... what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, Ephesians 1:18c (ESV)

**3) THE PRESENT: God's Power is \_\_\_\_\_!**

<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might Ephesians 1:19 (ESV)

and what the surpassing greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of the might of his strength, Ephesians 1:19 (Darby)

**HIS POWER IS:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**4) The Resurrection continues today \_\_\_\_\_!**

<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:20-21 (ESV)

**5) I must \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ's authority to find authentic wholeness.**

<sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23 (ESV)

*He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.*  
Ephesians 1:22-23 (MSG)

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Do you think it's important to start off most of your prayers (not counting times of emergency) by praising God and being thankful? Why or why not?**
- 2) Paul had spiritual growth and depth as a real priority for the Ephesians. Is this a regular part of your prayer life as well? When we take prayer requests we don't often hear someone ask for God to help them grow. So is this an overlooked priority in prayer?**
- 3) Louie said that having a "holy discontent" is not just a good thing, but a necessity if I am to grow spiritually. What do you think of this? Are modern Christians too comfortable and satisfied with their life right now?**
- 4) Is it even remotely possible to "fully know" God in this life? If it's not then why pray for it?**
- 5) What is "heart knowledge" and do you personally believe it's important?**
- 6) Do you still struggle with things from your past? Does knowing that God will use all of my past – good & bad – to make me more like Christ help you deal with it?**
- 7) Why does Paul use so many words to describe God's power? Do you think we often miss the variety of ways God's power can appear in our lives?**
- 8) What does Christ being head of the church mean to you? Do you find comfort, assurance or strength through this truth?**

#### **CLOSE IN GROUP PRAYER**

**Small Group Lessons  
The Incomparable Christ #2  
The Power of Unity  
By Brie McRae**

**Open With Prayer**

**Discussion Starter:** What groups or communities are you a part of? How do they benefit your daily life? (Unity, support, joy, guidance, etc.)

**1) Before Jesus' death on the cross, there were divisions:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision, by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands. Ephesians 2:11*

**2) Prior to accepting Jesus as our Lord, we are like the \_\_\_\_\_**

*Remember that you were at the time **separated** from Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** to the covenants of promise, **having no hope** and **without God** in the world. Ephesians 2:12*

**3) Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we now have the ability to be**

\_\_\_\_\_ **God**

*"But the only way to be brought near to God is by the blood of Christ. What Jesus did on the cross, suffering as if He were a guilty sinner in the place of guilty sinners, brings us near to God."  
– Enduring Word Commentary*

**4) Jesus' redeeming work on the cross is one of \_\_\_\_\_ and has great rewards**

**a. Unity with \_\_\_\_\_**

*And might reconcile us both to God... Ephesians 2:16*

**b. Unity with other \_\_\_\_\_**

*But you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19*

**5) After Jesus' death on the cross, we also join in the great cloud of witnesses whose faith can \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ us**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1*

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1) What did your life look like before you knew Christ? How would you describe your life now, especially if you have a deep relationship with God?
- 2) Have you experienced this deep unity that Paul writes about in your life or in the church?
- 3) Paul says that we are fellow citizens and members of the household of Christ (v. 19). What does it mean to be citizens in God's kingdom? What responsibilities come with that identity?
- 4) How has your life been changed as God is calling you to be a dwelling place for Him?
- 5) Read Galatians 3:28. How does this verse change how you think about your identity as it is found in Christ?
- 6) Nowadays, we don't have the Jews vs Gentiles debate in church. However, we still have contention in the church and body of Christ as a whole. What divisions do you see that believers have put themselves into?
- 7) Reflect on the previous question: how can we strive towards unity despite the differences and divisions we put ourselves into?



**Small Group Lessons**  
**Ephesians – the Incomparable Christ**  
**Part 3: Marks of Spiritual Maturity**  
**By Louie Marsh, 2026**

**OPEN WITH PRAYER:**

**Discussion Starter:** Define or describe a spiritual person. Be specific about what makes him or her that way. Then, answer this question: Do you live up to your own definition/description? Do you consider yourself spiritually mature?

**Intro. Why** this personal part? Because Paul is personally involved with all the churches, he loves them. AND he knows what all great communicators know – people remember and are moved by stories. True stories even more so. This is the true, though partial, story of how Paul experienced Authentic Spirituality.

**AN AUTHENTICALLY SPIRITUAL PERSON...**

**1) Views life from a \_\_\_\_\_, not a human, perspective.**

*“For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—” (Ephesians 3:1, ESV)*

**2) Serves God by \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you,” ... “Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.” (Ephesians 3:2,7, ESV)*

*As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. 1 Corinthians 12:18 (MSG)*

**3) Has a proper view of ...**

- \_\_\_\_\_

*“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles... (Ephesians 3:8a, ESV)*

*“I urge you, then, be imitators of me.” (1 Corinthians 4:16, ESV)*

*“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” (1 Timothy 1:15, ESV)*

*“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29, ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_

*... to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,” (Ephesians 3:8b, ESV)*

*“<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” (Romans 11:33, ESV)*

**4) \_\_\_\_\_ what the church really is.**

*“<sup>10</sup>so that **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (Ephesians 3:10–11, ESV)*

- **God’s Work is always through the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**5) Approaches God with \_\_\_\_\_!**

*“<sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.” (Ephesians 3:12, ESV)*

*“<sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16, ESV)*

**6) NEVER FORGET: Service = \_\_\_\_\_!**

*“<sup>13</sup>So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.” (Ephesians 3:13, ESV)*

*“<sup>11</sup>So Gad came to David and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Choose what you will: <sup>12</sup>either three years of famine, or three months of devastation by your foes while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of the Lord, pestilence on the land, with the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.’ Now decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me.”” (1 Chronicles 21:11–12, ESV)*

*“<sup>13</sup>Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.”” (1 Chronicles 21:13, ESV)*

*“<sup>18</sup>Now the angel of the Lord had commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and raise an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>19</sup>So David went up at Gad’s word, which he had spoken in the name of the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Now Ornan was threshing wheat. He turned and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves. <sup>21</sup>As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David and went out from the threshing floor and paid homage to David with his face to the ground. <sup>22</sup>And David said to Ornan, “Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the Lord—give it to me at its full price—that the plague may be averted from the people.” <sup>23</sup>Then Ornan said to David, “Take it, and let my lord the king do what seems good to him. See, I give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for the wood and the wheat for a grain offering; I give it all.”*

*<sup>24</sup>But King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will buy them for the full price. **I will not take for the Lord what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.**”” (1 Chronicles 21:18–24, ESV)*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

**1) We hear the words “spiritual” and “spirituality” thrown around a lot today. How does our culture’s understand of what those words mean differ from what the Bible teaches us about being spiritual? Do you think many Christians are being fooled into adopting the world’s understanding in place of what Scripture teaches?**

**2) What does viewing life from a heavenly mean? Is this anything like the old saying about being so heavenly minded you’re no earthly good?**

**3) If grace is a free gift, then how do I serve by grace? Can you work in or by something that you don’t deserve and can’t earn but only receive as a free gift?**

**4) What is the proper view of yourself from a Biblical perspective? Is it all positive, or all negative or something else completely?**

**5) What is the proper view of Christ from a Biblical perspective?**

**6) How does the book of Ephesians present the church to us? Paul has an exalted view of what the church is and will become. Do you think you understand what he’s teaching us here? Do most Christians need to expand their view of what the church is in God’s plan?**

**7) How can I, a sinner saved by grace, approach God boldly? Is it possible to be too bold when I approach God? Is it possible to be too humble or meek?**

**8) Service equals sacrifice. How much are you sacrificing in your service of God? What does God from us in this sacrifice? Money? Wealth? Or is He really after something far more important and less tangible?**

**Do you think this call to sacrifice draws people to Christ, or pushes them away? What makes you answer the way you do?**

**CLOSE IN GROUP PRAYER**



Small Group Lessons  
Ephesians – the Incomparable Christ  
Part Four: Oh Grow Up!  
By Louie Marsh, 2026

**OPEN WITH PRAYER:**

**Discussion Starter:** We all know there's a big difference between growing older and growing up. Do you feel that, in your spiritual life, you are growing up or just growing older? What specific things can you point at to support your answer?

**1) Take God's \_\_\_\_\_**

- I'm learning to be \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Ephesians 4:14, ESV)*

- I'm \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

*"<sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love..." (Ephesians 4:15a, ESV)*

*"Instead truthing it in love..." Literal Translation.*

- I'm \_\_\_\_\_ closer to Christ

*... we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ," (Ephesians 4:15b, ESV)*

- I'm \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ & His Community

*"<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:16, ESV)*

**2) Sin's Downward Spiral - Evil's adaptive process.**

**A) Futile Thinking – \_\_\_\_\_ ideas about God & Christ.**

*"<sup>17</sup>Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds." (Ephesians 4:17, ESV)*

*"<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:21, ESV)*

**B) Hardness of heart – \_\_\_\_\_ hardening**

*"<sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart." (Ephesians 4:18, ESV)*

**C) Ignorance – \_\_\_\_\_ blindness.**

*ignorance that is in them...*

**D) Darkened understanding – \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.” (Ephesians 4:18, ESV)*

**E) Separated from the life of God – \_\_\_\_\_ from God’s Spirit & power**

*alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”*

**F) Giving myself over – \_\_\_\_\_ to a Godless lifestyle**

*“<sup>19</sup>They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.” (Ephesians 4:19, ESV)*

**3) How I can avoid all this –**

*“<sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,” (Ephesians 4:20–21, ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8, ESV)*

- **Keep my heart \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>11</sup>We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. <sup>12</sup>You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. <sup>13</sup>In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.” (2 Corinthians 6:11–13, ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **my old self**

*“<sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,” (Ephesians 4:22, ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **my new self**

*“<sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24, ESV)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **myself daily.**

*“<sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,” (Ephesians 4:23, ESV)*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Aside from whatever you might feel about something, how can we be discerning? What should I be doing so that I can avoid lies and distortions and instead be clinging to God's truth? Are there any practical steps I can take?**
- 2) Paul told us to truth it in love. How do I do that? Does that mean I have to always be blunt and just bash people over the head with the truth? How can the way I live reflect God's truth to those around me?**
- 3) Futile thinking is something to avoid according to Paul. It what unbelievers do and followers of Jesus shouldn't think that way. Can you give an example of futile thinking? Do you have any areas where you are tempted to enter into futile thinking?**
- 4) The Bible talks a lot about having a hard heart. Paul here says it's very dangerous. So what exactly is a hard heart? How does one get it? If it's not like catching a cold, then how does it happen to me? What can I do to maintain a healthy and "soft" heart?**
- 5) If I keep on hardening my heart and thinking wrongly, Paul says I can lose God's power in my life. Does that frighten you? Have you ever experienced this in your life? How did it happen and how did you recover from it?**
- 6) Keeping my heart open is important, as Paul shows the Corinthians. How can do this to people how are constantly, and perhaps deliberately, hurting me?**
- 7) Paul says that part of becoming like Christ is to put off my old nature and put on the new. Sounds good but how do you do that in a practical way?**
- 8) Paul ends this section by saying we need to be renewed *daily* in the spirit of our minds. What do I do everyday to help that renewal take place? Do you have any favorite spiritual practices that help you be renewed every day?**

**Small Group Lessons  
The Incomparable Christ #5  
Husbands, Wives, & Jesus  
By Brie McRae**

**Open With Prayer**

**Discussion Starter:** Who is your favorite on-screen couple? What do you admire about them or find concerning about their relationships? Who is a couple in real life that you admire – share why you admire them!

**1) Submission is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian lifestyle**

“In non-military use, it was a ‘voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.’ – Blue Letter Bible

**a) Wives submit to their \_\_\_\_\_**

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22*

*So also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Ephesians 5:24b*

**b) The church submits to \_\_\_\_\_**

*Now as the church submits to Christ. Ephesians 5:24a*

**c) \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ submits to God**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*

**2) Submission \_\_\_\_\_ come naturally to sinful humans – that’s all of us!**

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Proverbs 16:25*

**3) The marriage relationship should \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship between Jesus and the church**

“As God made man in His own image, so He made earthly marriage in the image of His own eternal marriage with His people.” (*God and Marriage*, Geoffrey Bromiley)

*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:32-33*

**4) Husbands are called to have a \_\_\_\_\_ for their wives**

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25*

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:33*

**Discussion Questions**

- 1) What makes submission difficult in today's culture? What about sacrificial love?
- 2) Submission is such a buzzword in today's society. Why do you think that is?
- 3) How does the world's view of submission differ from biblical submission?
- 4) Looking back at point 3, how does that fact change how you view marriage?
- 5) Regardless of your marital status, what relationship in your life do you need to work on? Maybe it's a friendship, a relationship with friends...
- 6) Why do you think Jesus' relationship with the church is what Paul says that married couples need to mirror their relationship after?

**Small Group Lessons  
The Incomparable Christ #6  
Family & Faith  
By Brie McRae**

**Open With Prayer**

**Discussion Starter:** What is a fun memory you have with your family? Maybe it's a tradition, a funny vacation story, or a time you and your siblings have bonded over something goofy, etc!

**1) The structure for the relationship between parents and children is rooted in the**

\_\_\_\_\_

**a) Children should \_\_\_\_\_ their parents**

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (This is the first commandment with a promise). Ephesians 6:1, 2b*

*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12*

**b) Parents should not \_\_\_\_\_ anger their children**

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. Ephesians 6:4a*

**2) Parents have such an important job – raising the**

\_\_\_\_\_ **of disciples!**

*But bring them up in the instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4b*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

**3) This idea is based on seeing God as our \_\_\_\_\_ and us being His**

\_\_\_\_\_

*I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. John 20:17b*

**4) Slaves are called to obey earthly masters as it \_\_\_\_\_ their relationship with God. This does not mean Paul endorses slavery.**

*Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ. Ephesians 6:5*

5) We should strive to \_\_\_\_\_ God in all our earthly relationships.

*Doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man. Ephesians 6:6b-7*

6) These godly relationships aren't easy, but are \_\_\_\_\_ it!

*Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11*

*Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord whether he is a bondservant or is free. Ephesians 6:8*

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) How have you seen God transform families through peoples' obedience to Him?
- 2) Why do you think family relationships are so difficult? These are often the people we love the most.
- 3) How does knowing that every relationship we are in should bring glory to God change how you interact with those closest to you?
- 4) Is there a relationship that God is asking you to restore? What is the first step towards that goal that you need to trust God in taking?
- 5) Why do you strive to have healthy and godly relationships in your life?