Ephesians

### Why Ephesians?

"So you're a Christian. Now what?" Paul writes to the church at Ephesus about how to walk in grace, peace, and love. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul both *Describes* the Christian's calling, and *Prescribes* the Christian's walk. What better way to start our year together than by building a strong foundation!

### Some Background

- Ephesians is one of Paul's Prison Epistles, meaning he wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus from prison in Rome
- "The Epistle to the Ephesians is a complete Body of Divinity. In the first chapter you have the doctrines of the gospel; in the next, you have the experience of the Christians; and before the Epistle is finished, you have the precepts of the Christian faith. Whosoever would see Christianity in one treatise, let him 'read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest' the Epistle to the Ephesians." (Charles H. Spurgeon)
- "Ephesians has been called 'The Queen of the Epistles' ... some say that Ephesians reads "like a commentary on [all] the Pauline letters". [It] probably has been best termed "the crown of Paulinism." (Theologian and Scholar, F.F. Bruce)

#### Theme Verse

Ephesians 4:1— "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."

# What's The Plan?

We will be reading 1 chapter per day of Ephesians as a faith family. You can include this in your Quiet Time however you would like. On the last day of the month (1/31) we will read through the whole book at once. There are 6 chapters in Ephesians, so you should be able to read it all the way through at least 4 times in total throughout the month of January.

# Getting The Most Out of This

We read historical accounts as historical accounts. We read poetry as poetry. We read letters as letters. That being said, read Ephesians like you are reading a letter (makes sense, doesn't it?)! I encourage you to use the "<u>scripture meditation methods</u>" tool from our resources page to help you internalize and process things. I also suggest that you take a look at our <u>Quiet Time Tools</u> resources (linked here) to help give you some good instruction and direction as you navigate through our reading!

# General Outline

Eph 1–3— Our calling in Christ (what it means that we are saved) Eph 4–6— Our walk in Christ (how we are to live now that we are saved