

Life Groups – Winter, 2007
Ephesians

Leader's Introduction

For the next few months we will be studying the book of Ephesians, written by the Apostle Paul, sometime between the years AD 60–62. Ephesus was the capital city of the province of Asia in the Roman Empire. The letter was sent specifically to Ephesus, but we believe that it was also meant to be sent to other churches in the region.

Paul wrote this letter from a Roman prison so it is often called a Prison letter or epistle. Ephesians was composed about the same time as the letter to the Colossians.

It seems that the Gospel was first brought to Ephesus by Aquila and Priscilla, an exceptionally gifted couple (Acts 18:26), who had been left in the city by Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:18-19). Ephesus was located on the Cayster River, on the east side of the Aegean Sea. The city was best known for its magnificent temple of Artemis (Diana), which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was an important center of political, educational, and commercial activities.

Paul later firmly established this young church on his 3rd missionary journey (Acts 19), staying there for over 3 years. After Paul left Ephesus, Timothy stayed with the church there for another year and a half. I and II Timothy were written to Timothy while he was there.

Leaders, we hope that you will use these lessons as a springboard for your own personal study of this important book. If the questions provided do not fit your study, please feel free to use your own questions. If you find other emphases other than the ones we have used in preparing these lessons, feel free to use them. If you have questions about or any difficulties understanding the materials we are providing for you, please call me or email me. I would be glad to help you in your preparation.

Most of all, bathe your preparation and your Life group in prayer. You have the most important role of all in your group. You will be leading the minds of your members as you open the Word of God. Carefully and prayerfully prepare and I know that God will richly bless your group!