

OUTPOST NETWORK

STARTUP GUIDE



MERCY ROAD CHURCH

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WHAT IS AN OUTPOST?

Outposts are groups that gather regularly to cultivate community through fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and reaching others.

During pioneer times in the United States, Outposts were places of refuge, resourcing, and rest when you were away from major cities. Outposts serve as communities that resource and enable your faith to be lived fully away from Sunday morning. Imagine a warm gathering in a cozy home, where friendships flourish and faith deepens. These gatherings happen regularly, creating a rhythm of connection and growth. In an Outpost, you'll experience the joy of shared meals, engaging discussions, and heartfelt prayers, all while having a blast together! It's not just about learning; it's about living out our faith in practical ways and supporting one another on our spiritual journeys.

The heartbeat of an Outpost is discipleship within a community helping each other grow in faith while reaching out to those we already know who may be far from Jesus. We each have an extended network of relationships (8-15 people) in our job, friendships, within our family, and with our neighbors that provide a fertile ground for authentically living out our faith.

Join us in this joyous mission to connect with others, share the love of Christ, and make a real difference in our communities! Together, we can shine a light and bring hope to those around us and experience Kingdom impact!



WHY FORM AN OUTPOST?

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

These words from Jesus are known as "The Great Commission" and are not merely a suggestion, but a passionate plea. In the final moments of His Earthly ministry, Jesus left His followers with this command that would shape the course of history and the lives of countless believers.

Jesus' purpose here on Earth was to share the love of His Father and make disciples. He left the glories of heaven to take on human flesh. He suffered on the cross for us. He deemed us worth dying for and now calls us to share this sacrificial love with others. Jesus entrusts us with continuing His mission to reach the lost, broken and hurting people of this world.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost." Luke 19:10, (NLT)

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21, ESV)

This call is not meant to be done in isolation. Christ envisioned a community of believers, united in purpose and empowered by His Spirit, to carry out this mission together. Jesus prayed for our unity because He knew our love for one another would be a powerful testimony to the world. Outposts in our neighborhoods are among the best ways to see God's love in action. In community and service, others will experience that unity and love.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35, ESV

STARTING A HOME OUTPOST

At Mercy Road we use the term “Outpost” to describe groups that gather regularly to cultivate community through fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and reaching others.

HOW TO BEGIN:

Step 1: Start with Prayer

Begin by seeking God's wisdom through prayer. Ask for guidance on how to start and facilitate a group. Pray for God to reveal two to four friends who might be open to joining you.

Clarify your initial thoughts for the group, focusing on fellowship, Bible study or topic, prayer, mission, fun and open dialogue. Engage with the two to four you identified to further develop the vision and mission of the Outpost.

Step 2: Identify and Invite

Determine your target audience and invite potential members. Consider reaching out to:

- Neighbors
- Coworkers
- Friends or acquaintances from church
- Those in your sports or activity groups
- People in your community who may be seeking spiritual growth

Step 3: Plan the Structure

Decide on the frequency, duration, and format of your meetings. For example:

- Weekly gatherings
- 90-minute sessions (suggestion: allow an additional 30 minutes following for informal conversations)
- Rotating hosts among group members
- Meals or Snacks

Step 4: Prepare the Content

A suggested starting point is to study straight from the Bible using the SOAP method of study. (See the SOAP Bible Study Method section on p.16)

SCRIPTURE: Select a passage from Scripture for the week and discuss insights or what stood out at each meeting.

OBSERVATION: Encourage participants to share what they notice about the verses.

APPLICATION: Discuss how to apply the passage to daily life.

PRAYER: Conclude with prayer related to the studied passage.

A sample 6-week SOAP study and great place to start has been prepared for you on the book of Ephesians and is available on p.17.

Step 5: Create a Welcoming Environment

Ensure your home or venue is prepared for hosting:

- Welcome everyone with warm smiles and eye contact
- Comfortable seating for the size of the group. (If seating is needed, encourage people to bring camping chairs or sit on the floor)
- Adequate lighting
- Refreshments/food (if desired)

Step 6: Facilitate Meaningful Discussions

- Take time to get to know one another using some of the suggested exercises or icebreakers. (see Resources Section)
- Set guidelines for the group at the first meeting, such as participation and sharing expectations and goals for the group.
- Guide conversations to keep them focused while allowing for honest and transparent sharing. Use open-ended questions to encourage participation. (see compassionately curious questions in Resources section)

Step 7: Discover Outward Focus

Dedicate time for group prayer and listening to discern God's plan for your group.

Step 8: Foster Fellowship

Allow time for casual conversation and relationship-building before or after the formal gathering or plan fun activities outside of regular group meeting times.

Step 9: Evaluate and Adapt

Regularly assess the group's progress and be willing to make changes based on feedback and needs.

Step 10: Prepare for Multiplication

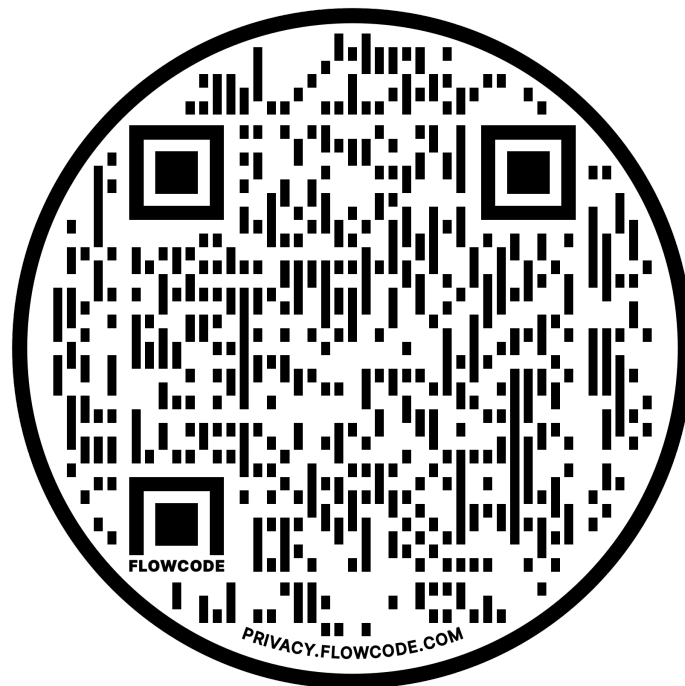
Start your Outpost with multiplication in mind. As the group progresses over time (maybe up to a year), begin to identify those who could be leaders. Encourage them to grow in their abilities by providing opportunities for them to lead more. Start conversations with them and mentor them into leading their own Outpost. Multiplication does not mean you need to stop meeting in your current outpost. It does not mean you split up your group. You simply identify possible leaders and pray that God will call them to start their own.



WHY SHOULD I MAKE MY OUTPOST OFFICIAL?

- To receive encouragement, prayer and support
- To obtain resources and materials
- To help the church community learn about your Outpost
- To learn about upcoming Outpost leader events
- To be coached in the vision of Mercy Road
- To receive free graphics that distinguish and promote your group
- Your Outpost story is a living testimony to encourage others to start

READY TO OFFICIALLY START AN OUTPOST?
SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED



HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO DISCUSS YOUR VISION FURTHER?
Contact Greg (greg@mercyroad.cc) or Jackie (jackie@mercyroad.cc)

RESOURCES



FIRST GATHERING SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1: Getting to Know You

Break up into pairs and explain the process. (leave about 45-50 minutes)

- Partner with one other person, then set a time and take turns asking questions of one another choosing two to three of the initial ice breaker questions.
- Rotate partners after the five minute time allotment until you get a chance to talk with every other person.
- When you have had time with every person in the group, circle back together and have everybody share one thing that stood out about someone else in the group.
- Leave a few minutes for the facilitator to wrap up your time.

Suggestion 2: Play a Get-to-know-you Game

Have each person grab a handful of M&M's; each color helps identify a specific topic. Each person will describe one thing based on the colors in their hand until they go through the entire handful.

Blue = Something you can't live without

Red = Something about your childhood

Yellow = Something you've learned about you or God

Green = Favorite movie/TV show/Book

Orange = A strength you have

Brown = Something that is challenging for you



ICEBREAKERS (Casual Questions)

Here are 6 weeks of icebreakers designed for those who are interested in, new to, or far from entering a relationship with Jesus.

Week 1: Getting to Know You

1. What's a typical weekend look like for you?
2. Share a childhood memory that still makes you smile.
3. What's one thing you're curious about but haven't had the chance to explore yet?

Week 2: Values and Beliefs

1. What's one value you hold dear, and how did it develop?
2. If you could instantly become an expert in one subject, what would it be and why?
3. Share about a time when your perspective on something important changed. What caused the shift?

Week 3: Life Experiences

1. What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done?
2. Describe a moment when you felt truly at peace. What made it special?
3. If you could relive one day of your life, which would it be and why?

Week 4: Hopes and Dreams

1. If you had a magic wand to change one thing in the world, what would it be?
2. What's a dream you've had since childhood? Have you pursued it?
3. Share about a time when you took a risk. What was the outcome?

Week 5: Relationships and Community

1. Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
2. Describe a time when you experienced genuine community. What made it special?
3. If you could have any superpower, what would it be and how would you use it to help others?

Week 6: Spirituality and Purpose

1. What's a question about life or spirituality that you're currently wrestling with?
2. Share about a moment when you felt a sense of purpose or meaning in your life.
3. If you could ask the universe one question and get an honest answer, what would you ask?



ICEBREAKERS (Deeper Reflection Questions)

Here are 3-4 meaningful icebreakers for each of the first six weeks of gathering times. These icebreakers are designed to progressively deepen relationships within the group, moving from basic introductions to more profound discussions about values, experiences and beliefs. They encourage vulnerability and provide opportunities for meaningful connections to form:

Week 1: Getting to Know You

1. What's the story behind your name (first, middle, or last)?
2. Share a pivotal moment from your childhood that shaped who you are today.
3. If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and why?

Week 2: Values and Beliefs

1. What's a core value you hold dear and how did it develop?
2. Describe a time when your beliefs were challenged. How did you respond?
3. What's a cause you're passionate about and why does it matter to you?
4. If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be and why?

Week 3: Dreams and Aspirations

1. What's a dream you've had since childhood? Have you pursued it?
2. Share about a time you took a risk to achieve a goal. What was the outcome?
3. If money and time were no object, what would you do with your life?

Week 4: Overcoming Challenges

1. Describe a significant obstacle you've faced and how you overcame it.
2. What's the most valuable lesson you've learned from a mistake?
3. Who has been a source of strength for you during difficult times, and how?
4. Share about a time when you had to step out of your comfort zone. How did it affect you?

Week 5: Relationships and Community

1. Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
2. Describe a time when you experienced genuine community. What made it special?
3. What does true friendship mean to you? Share an example from your life.

Week 6: Faith and Purpose

1. How has your understanding of faith or spirituality evolved over time?
2. Share about a moment when you felt a sense of calling or purpose.
3. What's a question about life or faith that you're currently wrestling with?
4. Describe a time when you experienced grace or forgiveness. How did it impact you?



COMPASSIONATELY CURIOUS QUESTIONS

As a leader, it is beneficial to help others discover answers and direction for themselves. These questions will help you to discover *with* them and not *for* them.

- As you were listening to _____ what did you hear them say?
- Do you have a sense of what the next step may be?
- Do you know why it feels that way?
- How do you feel about that?
- How is Jesus specifically speaking that message to you?
- If this is true, how would it impact you moving forward?
- Of the things you just mentioned, what seems the most significant?
- Tell me more about that?
- What are you going to do about that?
- What difference does this make for you?
- What is God saying to you?
- What happened that caused you to think that?
- Maybe this is something you need to think further about
- Which one feels like a bigger deal to you?
- Why do you think you did that?
- What stands out to you?
- Why does that bother you?
- Why does this matter to you?
- You seem _____ (name emotion). Do you know why?
- You seem really upset....do you want to talk about that?



SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The SOAP Method includes four steps:

1. SCRPTURE. Write out the verses at least once. Slow down and copy the passage from the text, focusing on what you are writing. Writing it more than once is always helpful.
2. OBSERVATION. Take time to carefully observe the passage. What do you see in the verses you're reading? Who is the intended audience? To whom is the writer speaking? What cultural factors are at play? Are any words or themes repeated? What literary devices are being used?
3. APPLICATION. After carefully observing what is happening in the passage, determine the main message or truth of the passage. How can you apply this truth to your life?
4. PRAYER. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time, pray about it. Confess any sin God has revealed. Pray through the truth of the passage.

The most important ingredients in the SOAP Method are your interaction with God's Word and your application of it to your life. God's Word is powerful and effective. You will never waste time in God's Word. Take time to study it carefully, discovering the truth of God's character and heart for the world.

A Sample SOAP Study for Ephesians 1:3-14 would look like this:

Scripture: Read Ephesians 1:3-14 aloud.

Observation:

- What blessings does Paul mention in this passage?
- How many times is the phrase "in Christ" or similar used?

Application:

- How does knowing you are chosen by God impact your daily life?
- In what ways can you live out your identity as God's adopted child?

Prayer: Thank God for the spiritual blessings described in the passage and ask for help in living out your identity in Christ.

EPHESIANS 6-WEEK SOAP STUDY

The following is a 5-day SOAP study outline for each of the six chapters in Ephesians, including reflection questions and application points. (SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer) This six week study can be used as a platform for dialogue. In each of the five day sections, highlight with a marker, what stood out to you the most during the week and be open to sharing insights when you gather as an Outpost.

(Optional: we encourage the practice of writing out the small scripture section listed as this practice engages more of the senses, personal focus, and can aid in reflection of words that have significant meaning. This is only a suggestion and up to you as an individual.)

This SOAP study outline provides an initial process or reflection through the book of Ephesians. We encourage you to journal your thoughts and insights as you work through each day. We hope this brings encouragement and practical application of its teachings.

Week 1

Day 1: Ephesians 1:1-6

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 1:1-6.

Observation:

- Who is writing this letter and to whom?
- What spiritual blessings does Paul mention?

Application: How does knowing you are chosen and adopted by God impact your daily life?

Prayer: Thank God for choosing and adopting you as His child.

Reflection Questions: In what ways can you live out your identity as God's chosen and adopted child today?

What struggles arise in believing this truth for you personally, if any?

Day 2: Ephesians 1:7-10

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 1:7-10.

Observation:

- What has Christ done for believers according to these verses?
- What is God's ultimate plan?

Application: Consider how the forgiveness you've received through Christ should influence your relationships with others.

Prayer: Express gratitude for Christ's redemption and forgiveness.

Reflection Question: How can you participate in God's plan to unite all things in Christ?

Day 3: Ephesians 1:11-14

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 1:11-14.

Observation:

- What does it mean to be "predestined" according to God's purpose?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life?

Application: Reflect on how the Holy Spirit is working in your life as a seal and guarantee.

Prayer: Ask God to help you be more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

Reflection Question: How does the assurance of your inheritance in Christ affect your outlook on life?

Day 4: Ephesians 1:15-19

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 1:15-19.

Observation:

- What does Paul pray for on behalf of the Ephesians?
- What does Paul want them to know?

Application: Consider how you can grow in wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of God.

Prayer: Pray for spiritual wisdom and revelation for yourself and others.

Reflection Question: What steps can you take to deepen your understanding of the hope to which God has called you?

Day 5: Ephesians 1:20-23

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 1:20-23.

Observation:

- What position does Christ hold according to these verses?
- How is the church described in relation to Christ?

Application: Reflect on what it means for Christ to be the head of the church and how this might impact your involvement in your local church.

Prayer: Praise God for Christ's supreme authority and position.

Reflection Question: How can you better submit to Christ's authority in your daily life?

Week 2

Day 1: Ephesians 2:1-3

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 2:1-3.

Observation:

- How does Paul describe the former state of believers?
- What influences led to this condition?

Application: Reflect on your life before Christ and the changes that have occurred since.

Prayer: Thank God for His transforming power in your life.

Reflection Question: How can remembering your former state help you appreciate God's grace more fully?

Day 2: Ephesians 2:4-7

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 2:4-7.

Observation:

- What motivated God to save us?
- What actions did God take on our behalf?

Application: Consider how God's love and mercy should motivate your actions towards others.

Prayer: Express gratitude for God's rich mercy and great love.

Reflection Question: How can you demonstrate God's kindness to others in your life?

Day 3: Ephesians 2:8-10

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 2:8-10.

Observation:

- How are we saved according to these verses?
- What is the relationship between faith, works, and God's grace?

Application: Reflect on the good works God has prepared for you to do.

Prayer: Thank God for His gift of salvation and ask for guidance in doing good works.

Reflection Question: How can you live out your faith through good works today?

Day 4: Ephesians 2:11-18

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 2:11-18.

Observation:

- What was the former division between Jews and Gentiles?
- How did Christ bring unity?

Application: Consider how you can promote unity in your church and community.

Prayer: Ask God to help you be an agent of peace and reconciliation.

Reflection Question: Are there any barriers you need to break down in your relationships with other believers?

Day 5: Ephesians 2:19-22

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 2:19-22.

Observation:

- How are believers described in these verses?
- What is the foundation and cornerstone of this structure?
- What does it mean to you to be "citizens of God's household"?

Application: Reflect on your role in building up the church as God's dwelling place.

Prayer: Ask God to help you contribute to the growth and unity of His church.

Reflection Question: How can you help strengthen and build up others in your Outpost community?

Week 3

Day 1: Ephesians 3:1-6

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 3:1-6.

Observation:

- What mystery does Paul refer to in these verses?
- How was this mystery made known to Paul?

Application: Consider how you can participate in sharing the mystery of Christ with others.

Prayer: Thank God for revealing His plan of salvation to you.

Reflection Question: How has your understanding of God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles impacted your faith?

Day 2: Ephesians 3:7-9

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 3:7-9.

Observation:

- How does Paul view his role in preaching the gospel?
- What does Paul mean by "the unsearchable riches of Christ"?

Application: Reflect on how you can use your gifts to serve God and others.

Prayer: Ask God to help you see and use the gifts He's given you.

Reflection Question: In what ways can you share the "unsearchable riches of Christ" with others?

Day 3: Ephesians 3:10-13

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 3:10-13.

Observation:

- What is God's intent for the church according to these verses?
- What is the church, the "ecclesia" or those who are called out?
- How does Paul view his sufferings?

Application: Consider how your life and the church can display God's wisdom.

Prayer: Ask God to help you remain strong in faith despite challenges.

Reflection Question: How can you maintain courage and confidence in your faith during difficult times?

Day 4: Ephesians 3:14-17

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 3:14-17.

Observation:

- What does Paul pray for on behalf of the Ephesians?
- What does it mean for Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith?

Application: Reflect on areas of your life where you need to be strengthened by God's Spirit.

Prayer: Pray for spiritual strength and for Christ to dwell more fully in your heart.

Reflection Question: How can you cultivate a deeper sense of Christ's presence in your daily life?

Day 5: Ephesians 3:18-21

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 3:18-21.

Observation:

- What dimensions of Christ's love does Paul mention?
- How does Paul describe God's power at work in believers?

Application: Consider how you can grow in your understanding and experience of God's love.

Prayer: Praise God for His immeasurable love and power.

Reflection Question: How can you allow God's power to work more fully in your life?

Week 4

Day 1: Ephesians 4:1-6

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 4:1-6.

Observation:

- What qualities does Paul urge believers to demonstrate?
- What unifying factors does Paul list for believers?

Application: Reflect on how you can live a life worthy of your calling in Christ.

Prayer: Ask God to help you embody the qualities Paul mentions.

Reflection Question: How can you promote unity in your church or Christian community?

Day 2: Ephesians 4:7-13

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 4:7-13.

Observation:

- What gifts did Christ give to the church?
- What is the purpose of these gifts?

Application: Consider what gifts God has given you and how you can use them to build up the church.

Prayer: Thank God for His gifts and ask for guidance in using them.

Reflection Question: How can you contribute to the equipping of others in your faith community?

Day 3: Ephesians 4:14-16

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 4:14-16.

Observation:

- What contrast does Paul make between spiritual immaturity and maturity?
- How does Paul describe the growth of the body of Christ?

Application: Reflect on areas where you need to grow in spiritual maturity.

Prayer: Ask God to help you grow in truth and love.

Reflection Question: What practical steps can you take to contribute to the growth of your church body?

Day 4: Ephesians 4:17-24

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 4:17-24.

Observation:

- How does Paul describe the old way of life?
- What does it mean to "put on the new self"?

Application: Consider areas of your life that need renewal in Christ.

Prayer: Ask God to help you put off the old self and put on the new.

Reflection Question: What specific attitudes or behaviors do you need to change to reflect your new identity in Christ?

Day 5: Ephesians 4:25-32

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 4:25-32.

Observation:

- What specific instructions does Paul give for Christian living?
- How does Paul connect our treatment of others with God's treatment of us?

Application: Reflect on how you can implement these instructions in your daily life.

Prayer: Ask God to help you live out these principles, especially in difficult relationships.

Reflection Question: Which of these instructions do you find most challenging, and how can you work on it this week?

Week 5

Day 1: Ephesians 5:1-2

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 5:1-2.

Observation:

- How are believers called to imitate God?
- How is Christ's love described?

Application: Consider practical ways you can walk in love today.

Prayer: Ask God to help you imitate Him and walk in love.

Reflection Question: How can you demonstrate sacrificial love in your relationships this week?

Day 2: Ephesians 5:3-7

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 5:3-7.

Observation:

- What behaviors does Paul warn against?
- What contrast does Paul make between darkness and light?

Application: Reflect on areas of your life that need to be brought into the light.

Prayer: Ask God to help you live as a child of light.

Reflection Question: How can you be more intentional about living a life of purity and thanksgiving?

Day 3: Ephesians 5:8-14

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 5:8-14.

Observation:

- How does Paul describe the fruit of light?
- What is the role of light in exposing darkness?

Application: Consider how you can be a light in your sphere of influence.

Prayer: Ask God to help you shine His light in dark places.

Reflection Question: In what specific ways can you expose and confront darkness in your life or community?

Day 4: Ephesians 5:15-20

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 5:15-20.

Observation:

- What instructions does Paul give about how to live wisely?
- How are believers to be filled with the Spirit?

Application: Reflect on how you can make the most of your time for God's purposes.

Prayer: Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and guide your use of time.

Reflection Question: How can you incorporate more praise and thanksgiving into your daily routine?

Day 5: Ephesians 5:21-33

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 5:21-33.

Observation:

- How does Paul describe the relationship between husbands and wives?
- How is this relationship compared to Christ and the church?

Application: Consider how you can apply these principles in your relationships, whether married or single.

Prayer: Ask God to help you reflect Christ's love in your relationships.
Reflection Question: How can you demonstrate sacrificial love and respect in your closest relationships?

Week 6

Day 1: Ephesians 6:1-4

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 6:1-4.

Observation:

- What instructions are given to children and parents?
- What promise is associated with honoring parents?

Application: Reflect on how you can honor your parents or nurture the children in your life.

Prayer: Ask God to help you fulfill your role in family relationships.

Reflection Question: How can you create a more Christ-centered atmosphere in your family or household?

Day 2: Ephesians 6:5-9

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 6:5-9.

Observation:

- What instructions are given to slaves (employees) and masters (employers)?
- How does Paul connect these relationships to serving Christ?

Application: Consider how you can apply these principles in your work or study environment.

Prayer: Ask God to help you work as unto Him, regardless of your position.

Reflection Question: How can you demonstrate Christ-like character in your workplace or school?

Day 3: Ephesians 6:10-13

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 6:10-13.

Observation:

- Where does Paul say our strength comes from?
- Who are we in a struggle against?

Application: Reflect on areas where you need to rely more on God's strength.

Prayer: Ask God to strengthen you for spiritual battles.

Reflection Question: How can you be more aware of and prepared for spiritual warfare in your daily life?

Day 4: Ephesians 6:14-17

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 6:14-17.

Observation:

- What are the different pieces of the armor of God?
- What is the purpose of each piece?

Application: Consider how you can "put on" each piece of the armor in your daily life.

Prayer: Ask God to help you fully utilize His spiritual armor.

Reflection Question: Which piece of the armor do you need to focus on strengthening today?

Day 5: Ephesians 6:18-24

Scripture: Read and write out Ephesians 6:18-24.

Observation:

- What instructions does Paul give about prayer?
- How does Paul describe his own mission and need for prayer?

Application: Reflect on how you can make your prayer life more consistent and purposeful.

Prayer: Pray for boldness in sharing the gospel and for other believers.

Reflection Question: How can you incorporate more intercessory prayer for others into your daily routine?

TIPS FOR OUTPOSTS

- Take turns, allowing different members to lead the discussion each week, with one person presenting their SOAP study to start the conversation.
- Once a rhythm is established, have the core team send weekly texts for encouragement and prayer.
- Consider a meeting schedule that has built-in time off. For example, participate in a 10-week study, then take a month off. Then, start a new 10-week study. Repeat this throughout the year. In taking a month off, you have the flexibility to multiply groups or to simply rest. Some groups choose to meet year round.

TIPS FOR OUTPOSTS WITH CHILDREN:

- For families with children, simplify the process by reading a short passage together and discussing observations and applications as a group. Have kids draw pictures to illustrate key ideas.
- For those with smaller children, you may have to rotate parents to oversee the children in another part of the house or pitch in to hire a sitter.
- This could be a time for a short lesson from the Bible Project video series for kids (bibleproject.com/explore) and then allow time for activities, games, and fun.
- We encourage younger children to join with the entire group during meals, worship, and short prayer. Then dismiss to another room.



SUGGESTED BOOK STUDIES

Embark, Robby Angle

6-part study to launch or re-ignite your small group based on *The Cure for Groups*. Through videos, discussion questions, and group applications, your group will build a foundation for an amazing group experience.

The Story of God, Eric Geiger

8-week, group-discipleship resource exploring the overarching redemptive narrative of the Bible. Traveling chronologically from Genesis to Revelation, this study will remove the intimidation factor and allow participants to discover the story of Jesus on every page of the Bible. This discovery will equip participants to join Jesus in that big story.

The Image of God, Ines Franklin and Steve Bang Lee

8-week group-discipleship experience that unveils the beautiful, biblical understanding of human life, dignity, and worth, rooted in God's original and beautiful design for His beloved people.

Theology and The Mission of God, Eric Geiger and Ed Stetzer

8-week, group-discipleship experience that will lead group members out of their comfort zones and into deeper spiritual maturity as they study and apply core doctrines from the global Church.

Flourishing: Lessons from the Olive Tree, Christine Caine

7-week Bible study designed to inspire women to remain steadfast in every season of life.

Sacred Pathways: Nine Ways to Connect with God, Gary L. Thomas

Discover the path God designed you to take - a path marked by growth and fulfillment, based on your unique temperament. In Sacred Pathways, he strips away the frustration of a one-size-fits-all spirituality and guides you toward a style of relating to God that frees you to be you.'