



## **KNOWING CHRIST**

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

### **LIVING IN CHRIST**

**Ephesians 4:1-32**

Inductive Discovery Lesson 11

Paul began this letter by taking his readers on a guided tour of blessings. To borrow a phrase, we've been "in the heavenlies" to get a soaring view of our spiritual riches. Like a pilot on a cross-country flight, Paul points out the landmarks—and you've been given a window seat. Take a flyover of your life in Christ. Look in every direction and see God's grace and wisdom stretch beyond the horizon. See how His mercy blankets the rough terrain. His knowledge, like a vast canyon beckons you to explore and discover His plan. In your heartland are fields of good works, planted and watered by God's own hand. From this altitude, Paul declares the peace we have in Christ is an unrelenting river that can't be diverted by circumstances or sandbagged by strife. The landscape of life only makes sense when you see it from God's perspective. *We are filled with the living, breathing life of Christ!*

Read that last sentence again. Let it penetrate your heart as you study the rest of this letter. Up to this point, Paul's focus has been on what Christ has done for us. Now it's time to talk about how to live that out in our daily life and behavior toward others. "I beg you," Paul writes, "to lead a life worthy of your calling."

## **Working Text for Ephesians 4:1-32**

New Living Translation (NLT)

**1** Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. **2** Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. **3** Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace. **4** We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. **5** There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.

**7** However, he has given each one of us a special gift according to the generosity of Christ. **8** That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." **9** Notice that it says "he ascended." This means that Christ first came down to the lowly world in which we live. **10** The same one who came down is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that his rule might fill the entire universe. **11** He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, **13** until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. **14** Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. **15** Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16** Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

**17** With the Lord's authority let me say this: Live no longer as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused. **18** Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. **19** They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed. **20** But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ. **21** Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, **22** throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. **23** Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. **24** You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true.

**25** So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other. **26** And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil. **28** If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need. **29** Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. **30** And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. **32** Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.



## OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

**Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources** such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

### Ephesians 4:1-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

### Ephesians 4:7-16

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(Continued on next page)

## Ephesians 4:7-16

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

## Ephesians 4:17-24

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

## Ephesians 4:25-32

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

## Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Ephesians 4:1-32

-----
-----
-----
-----

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**put off**...the **old** man” (vs.22) \_\_\_\_\_

-----

“**put on** the **new** man” (vs.24) \_\_\_\_\_

-----



### **INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

### **APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

#### **Ephesians 4:1-6**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

#### **Ephesians 4:7-16**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

#### **Ephesians 4:17-24**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

#### **Ephesians 4:25-32**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

## Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.

\_\_\_\_\_



## Take a Closer Look

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,  
forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.  
Ephesians 4:32 (NKJ)**

## *Memorize God's Word*

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Meditate on God's Word*

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

---

---

**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

---

---

### ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

---

---

---

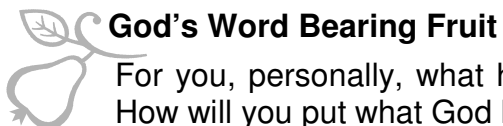
---



### **Something to Think About . . .**

No one could ever wrong us as much as we have wronged God. Still, He loves us and forgives us all our sins. This, beloved, should be the measure of our forgiveness.

- Lehman Strauss



### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?  
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

---

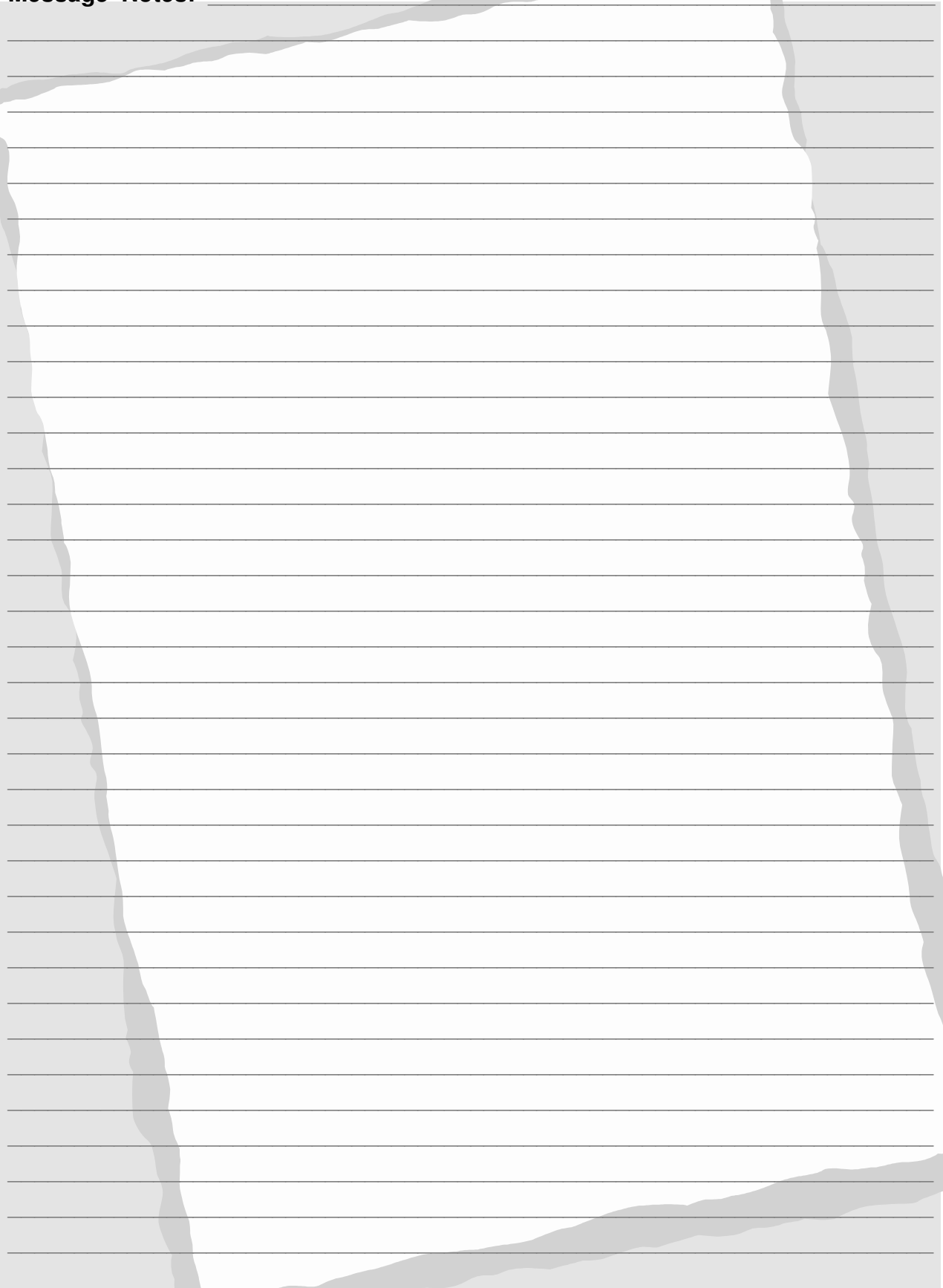
---

---

---

---

**Message Notes:**

A large rectangular area with a torn paper border, containing horizontal lines for writing notes. The border is irregular and jagged, resembling torn paper. The interior is filled with horizontal lines, with a slightly darker shaded area at the top and bottom.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved

