

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION
Ephesians

[NOTE to leaders: Some of your groups will know Ephesians better than others. Some of these questions require more understanding than others. Try to gauge which questions will BEST help your group – and spend your time on those]

Ephesus was the 3rd largest and most important city in the Roman Empire – with a population around 250,000. It was famous for its magic practices, its wealth from trading opportunities (as a port city), and its worship of major goddess Artemis in every aspect of daily living (with a truly immense temple structure to boot!)

1. What do you think would be the temptations for a Christian in those days? [Hint: skim through Acts 19 for some examples]
2. When looking at their church family, and contrasting it with their city, how might they be tempted to think about the church?
3. If you had to pick one word to describe your emotions about your church, what would it be?
4. Read Ephesians 1:9-10 and 3:9-10. What does Paul say the church's place in the universe and God's plans is?
5. Read verses 3:1, 13, 4:1 and 6:20. They all speak of Paul's imprisonment. Does the letter sound like it was written from prison? What does Paul focus on in order to remain "positive" and keep his chains in perspective? What makes it hard for us to do the same? How can we help each other do this, without being dismissive of real problems – while at the same time having God's big picture in mind?
6. After spending the first three chapters explaining God's extraordinary work, why do you think Paul chooses the ordinary word "walk" to summarize chapters 4-6?
7. What would be missing if the book of Ephesians contained only the first three chapters? What if it was only the last three chapters?
8. The book of Ephesians addresses the church *as a whole body*, rather than individuals. Why is this important? Is this different to how you think about your Christian life?
9. Praise, thanksgiving, prayer for understanding and love, explanations of God's work, living worthily – pick an aspect from this book that you want to grow in and spend some time asking God for that growth.