

# CHRIST THE CENTER

## **INTRODUCTION: A Study on Ephesians and John 15**

Our relationship with Jesus Christ is paramount, and our ministry to others can only overflow from our walk with God. So the foundation for all of our staff training in The Navigators is our understanding of the following:

**Who is Christ?  
Who am I in Christ?**

The first study in our Collegiate Training Curriculum is a book study of Ephesians. After completing your study of Ephesians, please answer the additional questions that follow, as they tie together the other studies in this stage. It is recommended that you begin with Ephesians, but that is not crucial, since your trainer may want you to begin with another topic.

## **PART 1: COMPREHENSIVE BOOK STUDY** (This may take 10 or more hours to complete)

***Already studied Ephesians?*** If you have previously studied Ephesians, please review your study with your Trainer and discuss if any further study is needed.

***First time?*** Please see the attached guide to Inductive Bible Study from <http://www.navresources.com> and do EITHER a Book Survey or a Comprehensive Chapter Analysis study of Ephesians.

## **PART 2: CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ON CHRIST THE CENTER**

### **I. THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING IN CHRIST (Read Ephesians 1-3)**

#### **A. Christ is the Center of our Worship**

1. Define worship.
2. What words or phrases does Paul use in Ephesians 1 that encourage you to worship God?
3. Considering your unique design and temperament, what changes could you make to your devotional life that would help you focus more on the greatness of God?

## **B. Christ is the Captain of our Salvation (See Hebrews 2:10 NKJV)**

1. Define the various aspects of salvation found in Ephesians 1:3-2:10 (what has God done to bring us to Himself and secure us as His own?)
2. How is each member of the Trinity involved in salvation?
3. List the benefits of being “in Christ” from chapter 1.
4. Read John 15 and add to your list above based on the ways Jesus says we are to abide in Him. Why does Jesus ask us to abide in Him?
5. Ephesians 2:1-10 gives a vivid picture of the believer before and after our conversion. Take some time to reflect on your life. What changes have you seen as a result of Christ’s work in your life? IN what ways is the Holy Spirit making you more like Christ? Are these reflected in your testimony as you share with unbelievers?

## **C. Chris is the Chief Cornerstone of the Church**

1. Define the Church using references from Ephesians and elsewhere in Scripture to support your definition. You may want to consult a commentary or Bible dictionary as well.
2. Describe Christ’s relationship to the Church (list verses that apply).
3. What is/are the purpose(s) of the Church (see Ephesians 3:20-21 and 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Isaiah 2:2; 1 Corinthians 1:2)
4. What is your emotional response to the truth that you as an individual are part of the global, historic, eternal Church?
5. In what ways do your current relationships in your Nav20s city ministry help to fulfill these purposes?

## **D. Christ is the Cause for our Evangelism**

1. What is the gospel of Christ we are to proclaim, based on Ephesians 1-3?

2. How does Paul describe the lost in Ephesians 2?
3. Summarize Paul's view of his calling Ephesians 3. What aspects apply to your ministry?
4. In Ephesians 6:19, what does he ask the Ephesians to pray for him? What are the barriers or what hold you back from praying like Paul?

### **E. Christ is the Center of our Prayer Life**

At various times our prayers may seem like obligation, work or delight. Consider thoughtfully how you usually feel when you pray. What can we learn from Paul's attitudes in prayer? Briefly study Paul's prayers in Ephesians 1:15-21 and 3:14-21, and his exhortation in 6:18-20.

1. What are common themes in Paul's prayers?
2. Why do you think Paul was able to pray the way he did?
3. What do Paul's prayers say about his view of God?
4. In what ways might your prayer life imitate Paul's?

## **II. THE PRIVILEGE OF LIVING FOR CHRIST (Read Ephesians 4-6)**

### **A. Christ-Centered Conduct**

1. What different kinds of conduct does Paul address in Ephesians 4:1-5:21?
2. What effect does each of the problem areas Paul mentions have on our ability to serve Christ?
3. What specific exhortation of Paul's addresses your deepest need for displaying godly character? Is there an application you need to make?

### **B. Christ-Centered Relationships**

1. What relationships does Paul address in chapters 5 and 6?
2. Which of these most applies to your current situation or needs?

### **C. Christ-Centered Warfare**

1. List the weapons God has given us to protect ourselves from the enemy's attacks. Which of these are offensive weapons?
2. Where are you most vulnerable? Why? How do these verses on our armor speak to your heart?
3. What memorized verses, actions, attitudes, encouragement and accountability from others have helped you gain victory over sins? How can you grow stronger in experiencing God's victory?
4. How are others on your city team helping you gain victory?

### **III. THE PRIVILEGE OF ABIDING IN CHRIST (Read John 15)**

#### **A. Abiding in Christ**

1. How does Jesus say we are to abide in Him?
2. What benefits are there to abiding in Christ?
3. What does abiding practically look like in your life?

#### **B. Living for Christ**

1. What is so significant about the new name Jesus calls his disciples in verse 15?
2. According to verse 16, what is a natural result of abiding in Christ?
3. What challenges does Jesus promise those who seek to live for Christ?

### **IV. PERSONAL APPLICATION OF CHRIST THE CENTER**

*What has God revealed, clarified or affirmed regarding my:*

CALLING (Who I am in Christ, Who we are as Navigators...)

CONVICTIONS (What I know and believe)

CHARACTER (Who I'm becoming as I follow and imitate Christ)

COMPETENCIES (What skills I already have and/or need to develop)

CONTRIBUTION (How I minister and serve – now and/or in the future)

What additional step(s) is God prompting me to take as a result of this study in any of these 5 areas?

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