STUDENT STUDY GUIDE | November 15, 2026

EPHESIANS

SAINTS & FAITHFUL

Based on the message by Chad Everett

"We don't live holy consecrated lives so that we can become saints. We live holy consecrated lives because we are saints."

— Chad Everett

THE ROADS CHURCH

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OVERVIEW

Who are you when nobody is watching? And what determines how you see yourself when you mess up?

It's easy to let your identity become wrapped up in what other people think about you, how well you're doing in school, your athletic abilities, your appearance, your relationships, or the mistakes you've made. But none of those things determine who you are in Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 1:1, Paul addresses believers as “saints” and “faithful in Christ Jesus.” These two words reveal something powerful about our relationship with God. **Saints speaks to our identity. Faithful speaks to our endurance and loving devotion to Jesus.**

Being a saint doesn't mean you've earned a special title by being a really good Christian. It means you belong to God through faith in Jesus Christ. When you're born again, your identity changes. You don't have to spend your life trying to earn what Jesus has already made available through His grace.

But that doesn't mean your choices don't matter. If you belong to Jesus, your life should reflect that relationship. Holiness isn't about performing well enough to gain God's approval. It's about living in agreement with who you already are in Christ.

And following Jesus isn't just about starting strong. It's about remaining faithful.

What happens when your friends don't agree with your convictions? When following Jesus costs you popularity, a relationship, or an opportunity? When you make a mistake, face disappointment, or feel like giving up?

Faithfulness means continuing to choose Jesus, even when it's difficult. It means refusing to allow failure to define you, refusing to use grace as an excuse for compromise, and holding fast to your relationship with Christ through every season of life.

This study will challenge you to examine two important questions: **Am I living according to who I am in Christ? And am I developing the kind of faithfulness that will endure?**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read → Respond → Reflect → Pray

Read each Scripture passage carefully and answer the Respond questions directly from God's Word. Don't rush past familiar verses. Look closely at what Scripture says about your identity, salvation, holiness, and faithfulness.

Use the Reflect questions to honestly examine your thoughts, relationships, attitudes, habits, and decisions. Don't settle for what sounds like the right Christian answer. Consider whether your private life agrees with what you publicly say you believe.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you are allowing past mistakes, other people's opinions, or your own desires to influence how you live. Then respond to what He reveals by choosing to live according to your identity in Christ and remaining faithful to Him.

You don't have to wait until adulthood to live as a saint and remain faithful to Jesus. Your relationship with Him matters right now.

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

- **Saints — hagiŏs:** Holy, consecrated; people who belong to God through Jesus Christ.
- **Identity:** Who you are. For believers, our identity is established through our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Born Again:** Receiving new life through the Spirit of God by faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Consecrated:** Set apart for God and His purposes.
- **Chief — prōtŏs:** Foremost, ranking above others, first of former.
- **Faithful — pistŏs:** Trustworthy, steadfast affection or allegiance.
- **Servants — hupērĕtēs:** To row; under-oarsman, someone subject to the authority or control of another.
- **Stewards — ŏikŏnŏmŏs:** One who manages or administrates a household.
- **Required — zētĕō:** To seek, ask earnestly for, to demand; to be or become that which is looked for.

SECTION 1 — OUR IDENTITY AS SAINTS IS FOUND IN CHRIST, NOT OUR WORKS

FOCUS

The world constantly encourages us to build our identity around what we accomplish, how we look, who accepts us, and how others see us. But none of those things can make us children of God. In Ephesians 1:1, Paul calls believers saints because they belong to God through Jesus Christ. Our identity is not something we achieve through religious performance. We become children of God through faith in Jesus and being born again by His Spirit.

READ

Ephesians 1:1; John 1:12–13; John 3:3–7; Galatians 3:26

RESPOND

1. According to Ephesians 1:1, how does Paul identify the believers receiving his letter?
2. In John 1:12–13, who receives the right to become children of God, and what does the passage say about how they are born?

3. According to John 3:3–7, what does Jesus tell Nicodemus is necessary to see and enter the Kingdom of God?
4. What distinction does Jesus make between being born of the flesh and being born of the Spirit?
5. According to Galatians 3:26, how do we become sons of God?

REFLECT

1. **What am I allowing to define who I am?** Think about your appearance, grades, athletic performance, friendships, social media, dating relationships, and the opinions of others. Which of these has the greatest influence on how you see yourself? When something goes wrong in one of those areas, does it change your sense of worth or identity? What does that reveal about where you've placed your confidence?
2. **Am I relying on my own religious activity instead of a genuine relationship with Jesus?** Have you assumed you're a Christian because you grew up in church, attend youth group, know Bible stories, or come from a Christian family? Have you personally received Jesus and placed your faith in Him, or are you relying on your environment and behavior to define your relationship with God?
3. **Do I live with the confidence that I belong to God?** When you approach God in prayer, do you come as someone who belongs to His family, or do you feel you must first prove you're worthy of His attention? How would your relationship with Him change if you consistently believed what Scripture says about becoming His child through faith?

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you've allowed to define your identity apart from Jesus Christ. Examine whether your confidence rests in what you've accomplished, what others think, or your own religious performance. Pray for a deeper understanding of what it means to belong to God through faith in Jesus.

READ MORE

Romans 3:21–22

SECTION 2 — WE LIVE HOLY BECAUSE WE ARE SAINTS, NOT TO BECOME SAINTS

FOCUS

There's a difference between obeying God to earn His acceptance and obeying Him because you belong to Him. Titus 3 teaches that God saved us according to His mercy, not because of our righteous works. Yet that same passage instructs believers to maintain good works. Grace doesn't make obedience unnecessary. Instead, our relationship with Jesus becomes the reason we pursue holiness. We don't live holy lives to become saints. We live holy lives because we are saints.

READ

Titus 3:3–8; Galatians 3:22, 26; Romans 3:21–22

RESPOND

1. According to Titus 3:4–5, what motivated God to save us, and what does Paul say did not earn our salvation?
2. In Titus 3:5–6, what does Paul describe concerning regeneration, renewal, and the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. According to Romans 3:21–22, how is the righteousness of God received?
4. What do Galatians 3:22 and 3:26 reveal about the relationship between faith in Jesus Christ, God's promise, and becoming His children?
5. According to Titus 3:8, what should those who have believed in God be careful to maintain?

REFLECT

1. **Am I trying to impress God or live in devotion to Him?** Think about why you pray, read your Bible, worship, serve, or make godly choices. Are these things part of a genuine relationship with Jesus, or do you sometimes use them to feel like you've earned His approval? What happens to your confidence in God when you haven't been consistent?
2. **Am I using God's grace as an excuse to compromise?** Are there things you regularly watch, listen to, say, post, or participate in that you know don't agree with God's Word? Do you justify them because you're already saved or because everyone else is doing them? If holiness flows from belonging to Jesus, what should change about those choices?
3. **Does my private life reflect my relationship with Jesus?** It's possible to worship at church and still make very different choices when no one from church is around. Consider your private messages, online activity, conversations, attitudes toward your parents, and behavior with friends. Where is there a difference between the faith you profess and the life you're actually living?

PRAY

Thank God that salvation comes through His mercy and grace rather than your own performance. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where your obedience has become religious activity without genuine devotion, or where you've allowed compromise because you've misunderstood grace. Pray for a growing desire to live in a way that reflects your relationship with Jesus.

READ MORE

John 1:12–13

SECTION 3 — FROM SINNER TO SAINT: EMBRACE YOUR NEW IDENTITY

FOCUS

It's easy to allow past mistakes, repeated struggles, or other people's labels to become part of how we identify ourselves. But Scripture describes a real transformation when someone receives Jesus Christ. Paul speaks about who believers once were and what God has accomplished through His mercy and grace. Being a saint doesn't mean you'll never make

another sinful choice. It means sin no longer has to define your identity. Rather than accepting failure as who you are, you can repent, return to Jesus, and choose to live according to your new identity in Him.

READ

1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 3:3–8; Ephesians 1:1

RESPOND

1. According to 1 Timothy 1:15, why did Jesus Christ come into the world, and how does Paul describe himself in relation to sinners?
2. In Titus 3:3, Paul uses the words “were also once.” Why is that wording significant when describing the former condition of believers?
3. Compare Titus 3:3 with Titus 3:5–7. What specific changes does Paul describe between who believers once were and what God has accomplished through salvation?
4. According to Titus 3:7, what have believers become through being justified by God's grace, and what hope is connected to that new position?
5. Compare Ephesians 1:1 with Titus 3:3–8. How do these passages distinguish between a believer's new identity and the way that believer is called to live?

REFLECT

1. **Am I allowing my past or my struggles to define me?** Is there something you've done, a repeated temptation, a broken relationship, or a label someone has given you that continues to shape how you see yourself? Have you accepted thoughts like “I'll always be this way” or “I can't change”? How does that thinking compare with what Scripture says God has accomplished through salvation?
2. **Am I using my identity as an excuse to avoid dealing with sin?** Knowing you're a saint doesn't mean pretending your choices don't matter. Are there attitudes, habits, or behaviors you've accepted as part of your personality, such as anger, jealousy, dishonesty, gossip, or disrespect? Have you ever said, “That's just how I am,” instead of allowing God's Word to challenge how you live? What needs to come into agreement with your identity in Christ?
3. **What happens when I fail spiritually?** When you give in to temptation, say something hurtful, or make a choice you know is wrong, do you hide from God, withdraw from other believers, blame someone else, or convince yourself there's no point in trying? What would genuine repentance look like in that situation? Are you willing to acknowledge what you've done, receive God's mercy, and make the necessary changes rather than remaining trapped in guilt or repeating the same behavior?

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've allowed past mistakes, repeated struggles, or other people's labels to shape your identity. Thank Jesus for the new life available through Him. Be honest about any sin you've been excusing or hiding, and ask for the courage to repent and live in agreement with who you are in Christ.

READ MORE

John 3:3–7

SECTION 4 — FAITHFULNESS REQUIRES ENDURANCE TO THE END

FOCUS

Following Jesus isn't just about making a decision at church camp, having a powerful worship experience, or feeling close to God during a great season of life. Faithfulness means remaining devoted to Him over time. Paul describes believers as faithful in Christ Jesus, and Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of endurance. Being faithful involves trustworthy, steadfast allegiance to Jesus, even when obedience becomes inconvenient, unpopular, or difficult. The goal isn't simply to begin following Him. It's to remain faithful throughout your life.

READ

Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2; Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:13–14; 2 Timothy 4:7

RESPOND

1. According to Ephesians 1:1, what word does Paul use alongside saints to describe the believers?
2. In 1 Corinthians 4:1–2, how does Paul describe servants and stewards of Christ, and what is required of them?
3. What does Jesus say about endurance in Matthew 10:22 and Matthew 24:13?
4. According to Matthew 24:14, what will happen before the end comes?
5. In 2 Timothy 4:7, what three statements does Paul make about the course of his life and his faith?

REFLECT

1. **Is my commitment to Jesus based on how I feel?** Do you pursue God when you're excited after a conference, youth event, or worship service, but gradually lose interest when everyday life returns? What happens to your prayer life, time in Scripture, and obedience when you don't feel spiritually motivated? Are you developing a lasting relationship with Jesus or depending on occasional spiritual experiences?
2. **Will I remain faithful when following Jesus costs me something?** What happens when your convictions conflict with your friends, dating relationship, teammates, or the expectations of people around you? Are you willing to be misunderstood, excluded, or unpopular because of your commitment to Jesus? Where are you most tempted to compromise your faith to protect your reputation or relationships?
3. **Can God trust me with what He's already placed in my hands?** Think about your responsibilities at home, school, church, and in your relationships. Are you trustworthy when no one is checking on you? Do you follow through on commitments, take responsibility for your choices, and serve faithfully even when you don't receive recognition? What does your current level of faithfulness reveal about how you're stewarding what God has entrusted to you?

PRAY

Ask God to develop steadfast faithfulness in your life, not just temporary spiritual excitement. Pray for the courage to remain devoted to Jesus when circumstances change or obedience becomes difficult. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've become inconsistent, distracted, or careless with what God has entrusted to you.

READ MORE

Mark 13:13; Matthew 25:14–30

SECTION 5 — HOLD FAST TO YOUR FAITH AND DON'T GIVE UP

FOCUS

There will be seasons when following Jesus requires you to hold on more firmly than before. Disappointment, temptation, discouragement, and the pressure to compromise can weaken your confidence if you allow them to. Hebrews warns believers about unbelief, the deceitfulness of sin, and departing from the living God. But it also calls us to hold fast and encourage one another. When your grip begins to weaken, don't give up or drift away from Jesus. Return to Him, respond to His correction, and continue choosing faithfulness.

READ

Hebrews 3:6, 12–14; Titus 3:4–8; 2 Timothy 4:7

RESPOND

1. According to Hebrews 3:6, what are believers instructed to hold fast, and for how long?
2. In Hebrews 3:12, what warning does the writer give concerning unbelief and departing from the living God?
3. According to Hebrews 3:13, what are believers instructed to do for one another, and what danger does this help prevent?
4. In Hebrews 3:14, what does it mean to hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end?
5. Compare Hebrews 3:12–14 with 2 Timothy 4:7. What do these passages reveal about the importance of continuing in faith rather than giving up?

REFLECT

1. **Where am I losing my grip on my relationship with Jesus?** Think about the pressures you're facing at school, in friendships, at home, or in your personal life. Have disappointment, unanswered prayers, temptation, or discouragement caused you to pull away from God? Are you still intentionally pursuing Him, or have you slowly begun drifting? What needs to change before that distance becomes greater?
2. **Am I responding to conviction or becoming comfortable with compromise?** Hebrews warns about the deceitfulness of sin and the danger of a hardened heart. Is there something the Holy Spirit has repeatedly challenged you about that you continue to ignore, excuse, or justify? Have you become less bothered by something you once

knew was wrong? What would it look like to respond to God's correction today instead of continuing to put it off?

3. **Am I helping others remain faithful, or am I contributing to their compromise?** Think about the influence you have on your friends, siblings, classmates, and others around you. Do your conversations, jokes, posts, and choices encourage people toward Jesus or make it easier for them to compromise? Who in your life needs encouragement to keep following Him? Are you willing to receive that same encouragement and correction when you need it?

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where your confidence in Jesus has weakened or where you've allowed compromise to become comfortable. Bring Him the disappointments, struggles, and temptations that have affected your relationship with Him. Pray for a heart that responds quickly to His correction and the determination to remain faithful through every season of life.

READ MORE

Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

“We don't live holy consecrated lives so that we can become saints. We live holy consecrated lives because we are saints.” — Chad Everett

You don't have to spend your life trying to earn an identity that Jesus has already made available through faith in Him. If you belong to Christ, you're not defined by your past, your failures, your achievements, or the opinions of others. You're called to live from your identity as a saint, allowing your relationship with Jesus to shape the decisions you make every day.

But don't stop at knowing who you are. Be faithful to the One you belong to. Your teenage years aren't a waiting period before your relationship with God becomes important. The choices you make now are shaping the kind of faithfulness you're developing. When life gets difficult, don't compromise, withdraw, or give up. Hold fast to Jesus, respond to His Word, and encourage others to remain faithful.

Live like you belong to Jesus. Stay faithful when it's difficult. And don't give up before you've finished the race.