



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Ephesians: Five Words for the World”

Preached by Andrew Arndt

November 23, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Andrew addresses five core anxieties of our modern day lives through the lens of Ephesians. He argues that we live in a 'secular age' where people feel cut off from God's presence but emphasizes that Ephesians reveals we are actually 'bathed in transcendence'. In his sermon, Pastor Andrew argues that transcendence is possible, history has direction, everything depends on God, peace is achievable, and God can be found. He says there is a 'quiet revival' building as people hunger for God again, with the church serving as the place where God's presence is made known to the world.

Key Passages

- Ephesians 1:3
- Ephesians 1:11
- Ephesians 1:22-23
- Ephesians 2:6
- Ephesians 2:10
- Ephesians 2:14-16
- Ephesians 2:21-22
- Ephesians 3:10

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Holy Spirit, we come before you this morning acknowledging that our lives belong to you. We have been bought with a price, and we trust that our lives are in your capable hands. As we gather to study your Word, we pray that you would open our hearts and minds to receive what you want to teach us today. Help us to surrender any areas of resistance in our lives and fill every dark corner of our hearts with your light. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith and may you gain more ground in our lives through this time together. We ask that the words we speak and the meditations of our hearts would be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

Share one simple thing you are thankful for that you might normally take for granted.

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor Andrew mentioned that we live in a 'secular age' where people feel cut off from transcendence. How have you experienced this sense of disconnection from God in your own life or in the culture around you?
2. Andrew shared that there's a 'quiet revival' happening with people under 30 seeking God. What evidence do you see of people in your community becoming hungry for spiritual truth?
3. This week's message addressed the anxiety of whether 'it all depends on us.' In what areas of your life do you struggle with feeling like you have to make everything work out?

4. Paul writes that we are 'God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' How does this change your understanding of your role versus God's role in your life?
5. Pastor Andrew mentioned being 'a feather on the breath of God', rather than trying to build God's kingdom ourselves. What would it look like for you to trust God's guidance more and strive less?
6. The church is described as the place where 'the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.' How can our church better communicate God's character to our community?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, identify one area where you've been trying to do God's job for God - whether in relationships, work, or personal circumstances. Practice surrendering that area to God daily through prayer, asking Him to guide you like 'a feather on the breath of God' rather than trying to control the outcome yourself.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- We are not cut off from transcendence but are 'bathed in transcendence' and seated with Christ in heavenly realms.
- We don't have to carry the weight of making everything work out. History has direction because God works all things together for good according to His purposes.
- Our role is not to build God's kingdom but to bear witness to it and make ourselves available for His good purposes.
- Peace and reconciliation are not just possible but actual through Christ, who has already destroyed the barrier of hostility.
- The church serves as the dwelling place of God where His manifold wisdom is made known to the world.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank you for this time of fellowship and learning together. We are grateful that you have called us to be part of your family and your church. Help us to live this week with the confidence that we are bathed in your transcendence and that you are working all things together for good. Give us the grace to surrender our need to control and instead trust you to guide us like feathers on your breath. May we be instruments of your peace

and reconciliation in our relationships and communities. Use our church to demonstrate your manifold wisdom to our city and beyond. We commit ourselves afresh to your will and purposes, knowing that you are faithful to complete the good work you have begun in us. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **Amen.**