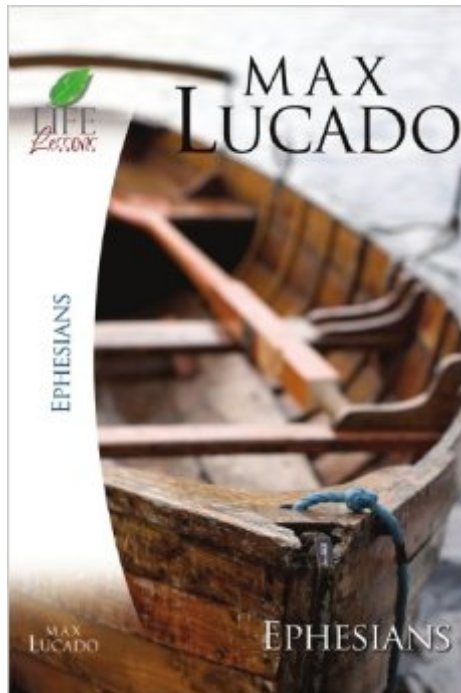


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Life Lessons: Book Of Ephesians: Where You Belong (Life Lessons)



Synopsis

In the book of Ephesians, Paul reminds us that Jesus longs for the day he will be united with the church-his bride in all her beauty. Paul's letter celebrates the beauty of the church. Ephesians gives us wonderful examples and basic overviews of a Christian life. Paul shows us how to walk worthy of Christ as we live our life for God. Paul's focus on the beauty of the church reminds us that through salvation we become a part of God's family: a place where we can experience true belonging. The Lucado Life Lessons series brings the New Testament to life in twelve lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational storytelling, profound reflections, and space for journaling. Revised and updated, Lucado Life Lessons continues to be one of the best-selling study guide series available for small groups and individuals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have used a number of Max Lucado small group materials. Comparing his work to other small group resources I find it to be well written and very helpful in getting our group to have a lively discussion. Some small group material only reviews the Biblical text and does not require much thought. Lucado will develop questions that cause the group to expand upon the text and provoke good discussions. I recommend the study on Ephesians for a small group that has a spiritual maturity that is advanced beyond new believer status.

I am a huge fan of Max Lucado, but not so much of this series for an individual study. However, I

believe they would be quite effective as a small group guide. Max provides it all: the portion of God's word (in two translations) pertaining to that day's study, good discussion questions, a short related reading (often from his other works) and related Bible passages for further study. I believe I would have given this at least four stars if I had completed it with a group instead of self-study (I found the questions more discussion-oriented versus self-reflection).

First off, I do want to say that I disagree about this book being better for one method of study over another. So, let me know explain the reason why. Often, outside my church groups (I belong to a Life group, and a mens buible study) anyway outside these groups I am regularly personally challenged by issues that require extensive exploratory thought and introspection. Church groups are good but one of two things happen. One, too much time is given to a question, maybe only one person talks the rest of the group listens and not every one is given equal time to share. Two, no one can come up with the applicable answers in regards to a question and the details are missed. This happened in my group study of "You lost me" and I have decided I will re work this on my own in order to look into "my own" answers. Likewise, there are issues with working this alone as several issues got me excited and I was looking to joyfully express how Gods word touched me. Hard to do, when you are doing the study alone, so thats a small downside. This study of Ephesians was a perfect avenue to explore the issues in Pauls letter. I would say I would cover the average chapter (12 in this edition) in about an hour and a half. Each chapter has two translations CSV and NKJV. To supplement the NKJV I decided to read the scripture from my John Maxwell Leadership Bible (NKJV) scripture is supported by Maxwells thoughts on biblical leadership. I would recommend sticking to whatever translation you prefer, for me being able to make my choice gave me a more complete experience. Secondly, as in any bible study, I needed to look at what its done for me and how it has increased my knowledge of walking with and serving God. For me, I walk away from this study with an increased knowledge of how better to love my wife and family. Ive learned how better to serve the church, and how to be a better employee and leader. For a small book, Ephesians really makes a huge impact. Thanks to the understanding gained from this study, Ephesians in my study bible is almost all hi lighted! Third, Max Lucado may not be for everyone. I know more than a few people that view him as sort of the rock star of Christian writers (meaning popular maybe, but not impactful as a writer). I disagree with this, since it is my third Lucado book, and I find his work to be solid, maybe not my persoanl favorite (I prefer Dr Charles Stanley) but Max writes in a way easily digestible for the average reader. I walk away from this book having appreciated the depths it made me look into myself. Ill recommended this study to my church friends, and I would strongly

consider revisiting the content in several years to see how my take on the questions may change. Whether you study this as a group or on your own, I believe there will be real and useable Christian growth within yourself and others at the completion of this study.

This book is wonderful for small groups. It is easy to understand, encourages your personal thoughts, and makes it easy to participate for the young Christian as well as the older Christian. Not young or old in age but in Christian living! Great book! Joan

Gave it a shot and read the entire book with our small group. Questions are elementary and don't always related to the passage read. Struggle to spark good discussion time so we made up our own questions instead. May be better for beginners.

Our bible study is currently going through this -- and its always a little problematic at the beginning of the group year in selecting a study...and the Max Lucado name made the selection easier this go around. The problem is that while Max Lucado is the only name prominently attributed to the book, the inside cover actually relays that this book and the whole series is produced with the "assistance of the Livingstone Corporation". Based on this, it is hard for me to determine exactly where Max Lucado had a hand in this series -- other than a one page "cut out" from one of his books that is plopped into the middle of each study. Each of the 12 studies breaks out a chunk (typically 1/2 a chapter) of the book of Ephesians, asks a couple softball opener questions -- then provides a paragraph intended to paint the picture of the focus of the scripture, then the scripture (in both NIV and New KJ versions) itself. This is followed by a few open "exploration" questions, an Inspiration section (the Lucado cut out page), a Reaction section, designed to combine the Lucado passage with the scripture. Each section completes with a Life Lessons paragraph, a few devotion ideas for further study, and an abstract blank Journal page, designed to allow folks to jot down more personal thoughts as a result of doing the study, or notes from a group bible study. This format is ok. In general I agree with the criticisms of others that some of the studies are surfacy and bland...but there are a few that are stronger. My big beef is that this is being marketed as a Max Lucado series, yet in many cases the "cut out" page of Lucados feels totally parachuted in, and do not mix well with the rest of the study...more than once I was left scratching my head as to why that page was plucked out of one of Lucado's books. Case in point - Study 3 is titled "Have Mercy!" -- and deals with Eph 2:1-10. -- largely focusing on God's grace and mercy. The Lucado piece dealt with Goodness and Mercy...God following you all the days of your life. This too is a great truth, but it was

a different focus and tone from the Ephesians study. This then made answering the Exploration questions tougher-where do we focus...the scripture?, the missed focused Lucado page?As a group leader, I look for studies like this to create a platform for great, hopefully life changing dialogue, not confusion; and this book created just enough misses that I can not recommend this series.PS - I also got the "NIV Application Commentary: Ephesians" by Klyne Snodgrass. I highly recommend this for anyone wanting an excellent deep dive into Ephesians without needing to know all the theologian lingo...with a healthy dose of application focus as well.

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