
Wednesday GEL Group

Grow Encourage Learn

EPHESUS IN BIBLE TIMES

8th May 2019

Welcome to GEL Group where we are here to Grow in our faith, encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ and to Learn about the Word of God and our faith.

Before we start our study of Ephesians, I would like us to reflect on the areas where we personally would like to grow, the way we can encourage others and the way we learn. Under the three headings, think about what these terms mean to you and how by attending this group you seek to Grow, Encourage and Learn.

I seek to Grow in

I seek to encourage by

I seek to learn

If you feel free to discuss this with the group, we will spend some time on this and we will pray for each other well.

Our present and future circumstances

Before we embark on an understanding on the culture of Ephesus, let's review what we see in our present culture and what we think is on the horizon for us as Christians.

Present:

Future:

Video Clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW5-J0hSrm0>

Let's now watch a video clip of Ephesus and reflect on what we have seen.

The City of Ephesus

1. A natural juncture for maritime and rural trade. Provincial capital of Roman Asia Minor
2. Twenty-five thousand seat amphitheatre
3. Grand temple of Artemis (Diana) mother goddess (Acts 19)
4. Other temples (Ephesus enjoyed the title *neokoros*, 'temple warden' of the imperial cult. Civic events such as Artemesia in spring, games linked the major cults of the city with the major social events of the province.
5. Home to a significant Jewish community. This community was given permission to follow its ethnic customs, exemption from military service and permission to send money to Jerusalem for support of the sacrificial system there.

Question.

What do you think it was like to be a Christian in first and second century Ephesus?