



This is the first of four daily circles as the study of Ephesians and the book “*Ephesians: Building and Community in Christ*” by John Stott. On each of the days we will briefly complete:

- 1) Lesson Tasks: Study the scripture as it is illuminated in our targeted book
- 2) Circle Tasks: Reflect on one of four application principles: Upward, Inward, Downward and Outward
- 3) Inquiring Tasks: Do a little investigating that helps us keep thinking about the principles throughout our day

Lesson Tasks: Please read from the beginning of Study Five: A New Ministry” in *Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ* by John Stott. Complete the introduction and answer the first three questions. The book we are studying is about a letter written to the Ephesians. Acts 20 described a sermon Paul gave to the Ephesians while he was there, in part “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace?” Write about either your experience with or your own fears of hardship if you follow Christ in a manner like that described by Paul.



Circle Tasks: Every day we focus on one application: Upward, Inward, Downward and Outward. Today we reflect **Upward**—the ways in which what we have read applies to our relationship with the Lord:

1. Paul described himself as a prisoner of the Lord. Being a prisoner is not a comforting image, of course. But, the word prisoner (desmios) describes a person who is bound, linked to, or a captive of someone else. Identify a few ways you are thankful to be bound to, linked to or captive to the Lord or otherwise:

Inquiring Tasks:

- 1) A seminal book about the sacrifices made by believers in the history of the church is called [Foxes Book of Martyrs](#). BBC recorded [an audio discussion of the book](#) which is also of interest as a supplement to the work.
- 2) While most people in prison are not there because of religious persecution, there are many ministries offering hope to those in prison. Read about a how women of faith are serving female prisoners through [the Prison Fellowship Create](#) program.

Tomorrow: Looking Inwardly

