

Paul's world Life in Ephesus – Gifts to all people – 5-11 August 2018

Background information to support the weekly resources on **Ephesians 4.1-16** (RCL Yr B Proper 10) in print and online at www.rootsontheweb.com



Life today

Have you ever been to a circus and seen people performing an acrobatic balancing act? Or seen a human pyramid on a TV talent show? They only work if people trust and support each other.

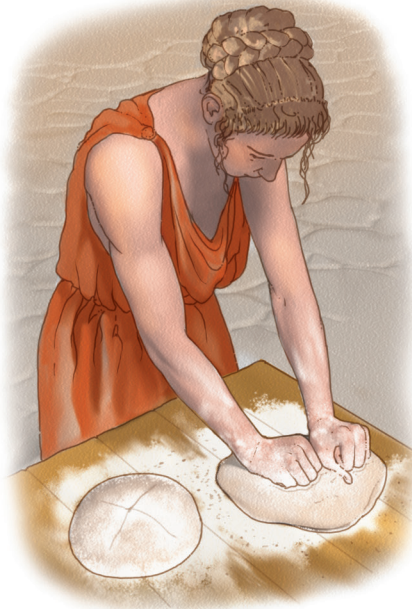


Did you know?

There were rules for entering the temples of different gods, especially if you wanted to go to ceremonies. The temples were seen as the houses of the gods and so it was important to enter them properly. You might have to wear white clothes to come to worship, or have your hair loose rather than braided. You might be told to enter barefoot and not to wear any gold jewellery. But you could visit lots of different gods, one after another. You weren't part of a group with the other worshippers. There was no loyalty to just one god. The Christian faith was different.

Imagine

You belong to the church that Paul sets up in Ephesus. You don't have a temple building, you meet together in a house and have to rely on one another. You don't have a shared tradition about how to pray, as you have all grown up praying in different ways to different gods. The one thing you have in common is each other and your shared relationship with Jesus.



Sometimes Paul describes this shared faith as being like belonging to a household. He says that everyone has a special gift and an important role to play, e.g. baking, teaching, treating the sick. All the people are so closely linked that it's as if they are parts of one body, growing up together, with Jesus as the head.



Paul's letter to the Ephesians

A nugget to explore with children: Chapter 4, verses 11 and 12

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.