

Life today

What might you see on a busy street near where you live today? Neighbours chatting, people shopping or waiting for a bus, children on their way to school, parcels being delivered.



Did you know?

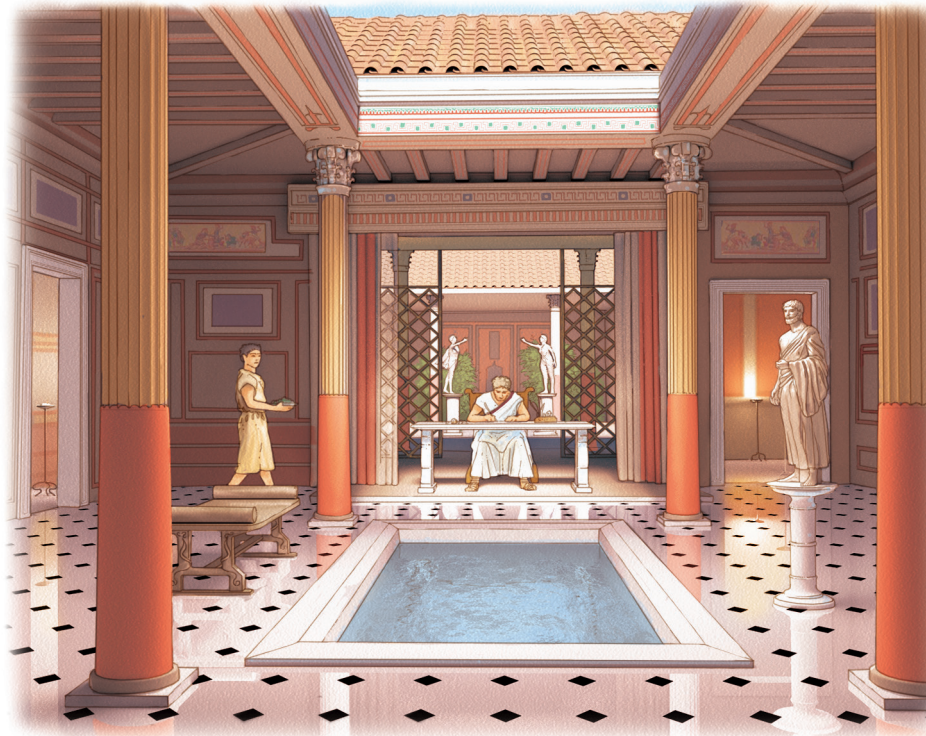
The whole Roman Empire was like a single 'household' with the Emperor (Caesar Augustus when Paul was on his journeys) in charge. The Emperor was a father figure and this kept the people loyal and obedient. He was seen as a little lower than the Roman gods and so to be honoured greatly. There was a clash of ideas when Christians described themselves as belonging, not to the household of Caesar, but to the household of God.

Imagine

You are walking along a street in Ephesus with Paul. There are no cars or buses, just people on foot and some carts. The road is paved with big slabs of marble. You go to a house and a slave opens the door. You walk into a shady corridor, through an open courtyard and into a large room. It has a hole in the roof with a beautiful pond set in the central floor that collects rainwater. You can see doors leading off into different rooms. Overlooking the pond, there is a man seated at a

writing desk. He is the father and head of the household. He lives here with his wife and children, but he also does business here and he keeps his slaves close by. You are in awe of this powerful person.

This was how a rich household would have been in Ephesus – a family and a business rolled into one. When you leave, Paul tells you that the people who follow Jesus are like one big household under God.



Paul's letter to the Ephesians

A nugget to explore with children: Chapter 2, verses 14, 21 and 22

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.