



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Ephesians 1:15-18a

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read Eph. 1:15-18a

Have someone read this overview:

Sermon Summary:

After Paul opened the believers' eyes to see how God has so richly blessed them in Christ (Eph. 1:3-14), he then prays that they would know God even better than they already did (1:15-23). This prayer helps us in two ways: 1) it shows us an amazing pattern that Paul lays down for those who are praying for others, and 2) it helps us to see how we can pray for ourselves. Prayer is not us praying endlessly about our difficulties and circumstances. Rather, it's a means for us to know God better and a practical way for us join him in his mission.

Discussion:

1. What makes the prayer of Paul in Ephesians 1 different from the way that we normally pray?
2. What is not in this prayer that we might expect to be?
3. How do your prayers compare with this prayer?

4. How should we pray for ourselves?
5. How should we pray for others?
6. Read this portion from Fred Sanders.

“We have an invitation to pray...to the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit. This is not just the ‘theologically correct’ to pray, but a way of praying that draws real spiritual power from being aligned with reality...It means praying ‘with the grain instead of against it.’ Wood has grain... [With] prayer this grain is [the Trinity], running from the Spirit through the Son to the Father...It is classically stated in Eph. 2:18: ‘through him [Christ, the Son] we both [Jewish & Gentile believers] have access in one Spirit to the Father’.”

Discuss what it means to “pray with the grain” of the Trinity.

End with Prayer.

- Ask the Father to help us go deeper in our prayer and to pray in the way Paul prays.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.