



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Eph. 3:14-21

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

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

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Bible Reading:?Ephesians Eph. 3:14-19

Sermon Summary:

Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Strength

After three long chapters of an incredible vision, Paul falls to his knees and asks God to give the believers in Ephesus all they needed to bring the vision into reality. He is not expecting them to be able to do what God desires based upon their own efforts and strength. His prayer includes both a personal and collective aspect. On a personal level, they needed strength from the Spirit in their inner being so Christ could make his home in their hearts. And, on a collective level, they needed strength to comprehend more dimensions than they currently did, and to know Christ's love more than just mere knowledge.

So many of us might think that the teaching by itself is good enough. But Paul knew that unless God added his strength to the believers, it just wouldn't work. And that's why he prayed as he did. We too can pray for ourselves and those we care for in the same pattern as Paul did. Give it a try this week.

Discussion:

1. Why did Paul feel like it was so necessary for him to pray at this point in the letter?
2. What do Paul's words, "*I bow my knees...*" imply for us as we pray?
3. Read and discuss the following quote by Warren Wiersbe . "*God ' seated us with Christ in the heavenlies ' (Eph. 2:4-6). Because we are seated with Christ, we can walk so as to please him (Eph. 4:1, 17 [etc.]) and we can stand against the Devil (Eph. 6:10-13). But [what] links 'sitting' with 'walking' and 'standing' is 'bowing the knee' [i.e., prayer]. It is through prayer...*" ?
4. Ephesians 3:16 says, "be strengthened" not use or depend on your strength . During the message it was stated that you cannot strengthen yourself, but you can position yourself to be strengthened by God. What might that look like for you? – Also read 2 Corinthians 4:16
5. Christ wants to dwell or settle down in our hearts. Discuss the difference between being a guest in someone's home, and being in your own home. What freedoms would you enjoy in both cases? What makes a house your home? Why do you feel so comfortable there? Why is that significant for Christ making our hearts his home?
6. Talk about experiences you have had of comprehending more about Jesus and knowing his love so much more when you were with other Christians. How is that different to you being alone with him?

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End with Prayer.

- Pray that each one of us would submit to being strengthened by God each and every day so Christ could make home in our heart.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.