

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Grasping the Blessings

Ephesians 1:15-23

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Sunday, February 26, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. What prompts Paul to pray this prayer for the Ephesian Christians? How does this prayer flow out of the things he wrote about in 1:3-14?

2. How do/should we (and the world) be able to identify those who are truly in Christ? How do you live these out?

3. What is our greatest need as believers? Consider also Phil. 3:8. If that need was met, how would this affect us?

4. In terms of wanting to know God more deeply and personally, refer to these passages and discuss how each character pursued or encouraged the knowledge of God:
 - a. Nicodemus – John 3: 1- 14
 - b. King David – Psalms 63 : 1 – 11
 - c. Words of Isaiah – Isaiah 55: 1- 9

5. Consider the content of Paul's prayer. List the things Paul prays for. Note that there are three main things. How do we grow in these three areas? Have you seen growth in yourself, your family or Life Group friends in these areas?

6. Consider your practice of praying for fellow believers. What do you usually request God to do for them? How does your practice compare with what Paul prays for in these verses? Will you change how you pray for others?

7. What is a better meaning of 'hope' in vs. 18? How does the difference relate to ever-changing truth, in our world?

8. Paul prays that we might know God's "incomparably great power." How does he describe this power? How is the knowledge of this power helpful to you?

9. How does Paul describe Jesus in verses 20-23? What has the Father done with Jesus for the benefit of the Church? How do these words about Jesus help you in your understanding and appreciation of our Saviour and the position He occupies? How does this confirm His sovereignty in your mind and heart?

10. Much of this week's sermon was about getting to know God better by experiencing Christ more; by reading the word and by strengthening our practice of prayer. The following passage relates to these practices. Read Philippians 3:10-14 and discuss the following:
 - a.) What do you think Paul means when he talks about suffering with Christ and sharing in His death?
 - b.) What does Paul mean when he speaks of Christ first possessing him and what is the perfection that he is striving toward?
 - c.) How do verses 12-14 relate to the practices that John referred to as the "means of Grace"?