

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

GETTING STARTED...

From The Beatles to Taylor Swift songs about love have always been plentiful. There is no shortage of expressions and emotions to be conveyed around the subject and for good reason. Love is one of the things that God created us to experience. However, unlike many of the cultural depictions, God's love stands alone. To know and understand God's love is unlike anything else in the world, which is why as Paul is praying for the church, he prays that they would be granted power and strength from the Holy Spirit to understand it. To understand the love of God is something we cannot do on our own, and we need God's help to even begin. As we grow to understand God's love more, we are also called to share and live in light of God's love. We glorify God as we reflect his love to those around us.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Paul is praying for the church in this passage, what exactly is he asking God for? Identify the three main points he is praying.
2. Consider Paul's benediction in vs 20-21, what is the main purpose of the church?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz Do you find it easy or hard to love others? Is there someone specifically that you have difficulty loving? How can you pray for each other that you can be strengthened with God power so that you can share His love and grace with others?

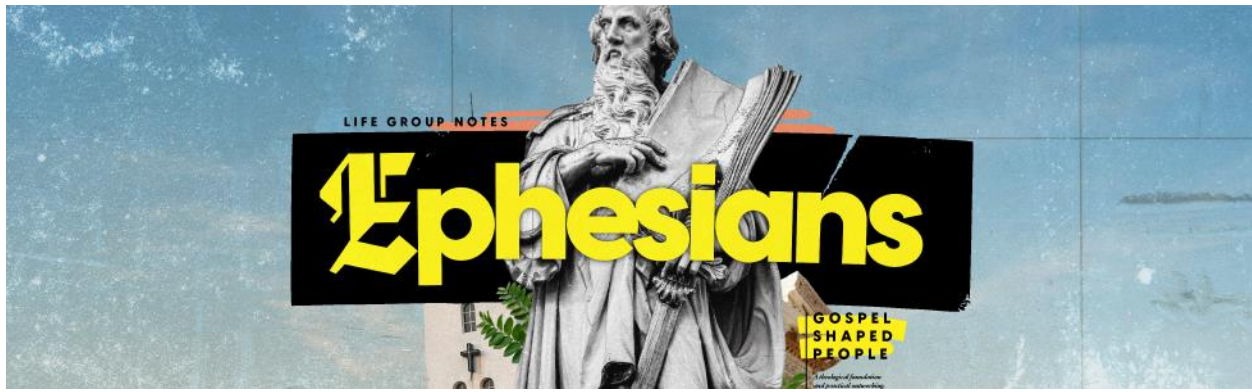
Chilliwack Is there a particularly profound act of love that someone has shown you that stands out to you? In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence, the truth of God's Word, and the gathering of the church helping you grasp more fully the sheer magnitude of the dimensions of Christ's love lately?

Harrison/Lake Errock If a Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion, why does the Apostle Paul pray that these Christians would experience the power of the Holy Spirit? What is significant about the concept of Jesus dwelling within our hearts?

Promontory How often do you spend praying for your own spiritual life? The church? How should we pray for these things? What difference does knowing God's love for us make practically in our lives?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*