

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever told someone that you would pray for them and not known what to say? At some point, we run out of things to say and we can get stuck in a rut of saying the same things over and over again. We often forget that the Bible has plenty of prayers that we can model in our lives, and Paul here gives us an incredible example to use. We so often pray for safety, healing, and money, but Paul has a very different list. Paul prays for the church that they would understand the hope we have in Christ, the riches of heaven, and the greatness of his power. Hope, wealth, and power are at the forefront of his mind as he prays for the church, and these three beautiful truths should transform our lives as well!

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Paul spends the first half of chapter 1 praising God, and the second half praying for the church. How do these two sections fit together? What does he repeat in his prayer? How does this teach us to pray?

2. Paul prays that God would give the church the "Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him." Why is he praying this for people who are already Christians?

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 What helps you to know God better? What effect has that had on your Christian life? How have you experienced God's power at work in, and through, your life?

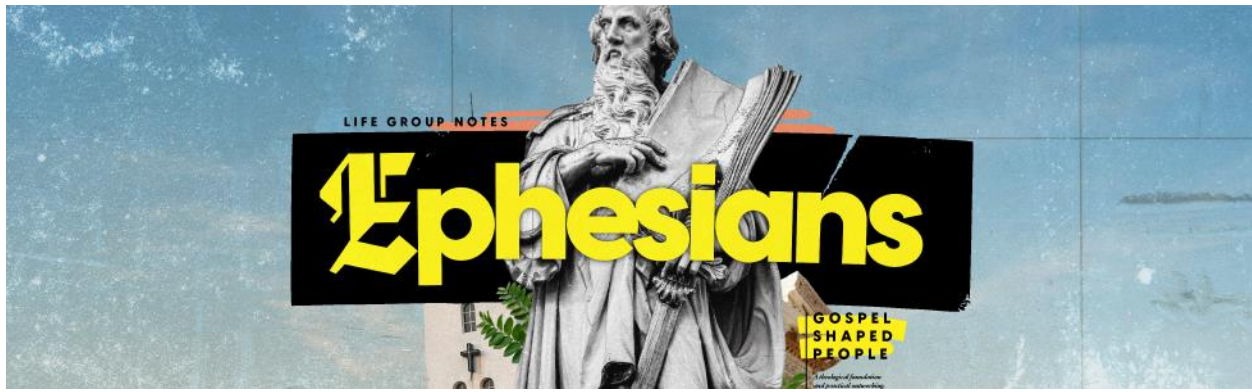
Chilliwack In what ways does this prayer of the Apostle Paul challenge your existing prayer life? And in what ways could it serve as a guide for your future prayer life, especially in praying for others including your church?

Harrison/Lake Errock Do you feel like you've "arrived" in your relationship with God? What steps can you take to pursue deeper intimacy with God? In what areas of your life do you tend to limit God's power? (i.e., personal sin, unbelieving coworkers, difficult family relationships, etc.) What would it look like for you to trust in God's power in those difficult areas?

Promontory Do you pray for our church? How can you pray these points for our church this week? How does knowing the greatness of God's power change how you live? In what ways can you lean on God's power more?

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*