



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“EPHESIANS 6:18-24” ON NOVEMBER 17 & 20, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 6:18-24

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 6:18-24 Paul finishes his prayer to the Ephesians with a focus on PRAYER, tying together in a continual thought all the references to prayer he shared throughout the letter. Review all six chapters of Ephesians; this entire letter speaks as well to us today, as though Paul were speaking right to us. His closing thoughts bring to us an important question: What does prayer look like to you?

What DOES prayer look like to you?

- Matt mentioned some thoughts of what might come to our minds when we think of prayer; spend some time sharing what comes to YOUR mind when you think of the word ‘prayer.’
- Is prayer a part of your life on a daily basis? What does prayer in your life look like? When and in what ways to you talk with Jesus or God?
- What would you LIKE prayer to look like in your life? How could your group pray for your prayer life?

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians provided many perspectives on the power of prayer in our lives. He wanted them to rely on the strength that ONLY God could give – to understand how great the love of Jesus is, and that that love is enough! He wanted them to put on the FULL ARMOR of God to face the darkness of spiritual battles that challenge every Christian’s life, so that they would be able to be strong and stand firm in these battles! Consider these thoughts on how to pray:

- PRAY IN THE SPIRIT – Looking at Paul’s letter and remembering Matt’s message, what does Paul have to say about the power of praying in the Spirit? (See Ch 1:13, 1:17, 3:16, 6:19 and others you might find.) How do these verses encourage you and help shape your prayers?
- PRAY CONTINUALLY – at ALL times – what could that look like in a person’s daily life? How could you be more mindful of praying continually, with ‘all prayer and supplication?’ Do you use a special acronym to help you pray?
- How is that helpful for you?
- PRAY FOR PEOPLE – NEVER STOP! Paul challenges us to keep alert with ALL perseverance, praying for ALL the saints. Who ARE the saints in your life? Why is it so important to pray for one another with such perseverance? How does knowing others are praying for you encourage you and strengthen your faith?
- PRAY FOR COURAGE TO SHARE JESUS – ASK for the courage to fearlessly and boldly represent Jesus as His ambassador, to declare the mystery of the gospel! How does Paul describe this mystery in Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and in other places you find in the letter? How do these chapters make you feel as a Child of God and an ambassador for Christ? What do you most need prayer for in regard to being fearless and bold in sharing Jesus with others?
- PRAY FOR THE CHURCH – In his benediction in 6:23-24, Paul mentions peace, love, faith, and grace for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. Why does Paul mention these concepts so often throughout his letter, and what is their importance in the life of the church? If the church lived out these concepts with an abundance of sacrificial love, how might it change the trajectory of who we are as a church?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

Jesus is inviting us into a conversation – how will you respond? How can your group pray for you to better apply the power of prayer that Paul describes in your own life?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.