



PIECE *of* WORK

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

WEEK TWO

Open My Eyes

Ephesians 1:15-23

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL · SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Eyes Wide Open to God's Glory

DAY 1

The Prayer of Gratitude

READING · EPHESIANS 1:15–16; COLOSSIANS 1:3–5

Before we ask God for anything, we must learn to thank Him for everything. Paul models this beautifully—he begins his prayer with gratitude for the faith and love evident in the Ephesian believers. Gratitude realigns our hearts with reality: God has been better to us than we deserve. When was the last time you thanked God not for what you're asking, but for what He's already done? Today, before presenting your requests, spend time recognizing His faithfulness in your past. List three blessings you've overlooked. Gratitude isn't just good manners; it's spiritual vision that sees God's hand at work even in ordinary moments.

REFLECTION

What evidence of God's work in your life have you been taking for granted?

DAY 2

Knowing God, Not Just Knowing About Him

READING · EPHESIANS 1:17; PHILIPPIANS 3:8–10

There's a profound difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally. The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew Scripture inside and out, yet Jesus said their hearts were far from Him. Paul's prayer is that believers would receive “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”—not intellectual knowledge alone, but intimate, experiential knowledge. You can memorize Psalm 23 and still not know the Shepherd. God desires relationship, not just religion. He wants your heart, not just your habits. Today, move beyond studying God to encountering God. Spend time in His presence not to learn something new, but to know Someone deeply.

REFLECTION

Is your relationship with God more about performance or intimacy?

The Hope That Anchors Your Soul

READING · EPHESIANS 1:18; TITUS 2:11–14

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking—it's confident expectation based on God's promises. Paul prays that our eyes would be opened to “the hope to which He has called you.” You are not defined by your worst day, your greatest failure, or your current struggle. You have been called, chosen, saved, and sealed by God. When people lose hope, they quit; when they have hope, they endure. The world says, “I hope things work out.” Christian hope declares, “I know my God is faithful, and I know how this story ends—in victory.” Your future is secure because Christ is coming again, not to a crucifixion but to a coronation.

REFLECTION

What disappointment is clouding your view of God's promised future?

You Are God's Treasured Inheritance

READING · EPHESIANS 1:18; DEUTERONOMY 7:6–8

Here's a staggering truth: you are not just inheriting something from God—you ARE God's inheritance. The Creator of the universe looks at His people and says, “Those are Mine, and they are precious to Me.” Your worth isn't determined by achievements, relationships, or status. The cross settles the question of your value. Jesus thought you were worth pursuing, worth redeeming, worth dying for. Many spend their lives searching for significance, but only your Creator can tell you who you are. You are treasured not because you've earned it, but because of His grace. Stop looking for validation in temporary things. Your identity is eternally secure in Christ.

REFLECTION

Where have you been seeking worth instead of receiving it from God?

Resurrection Power at Work in You

READING · EPHESIANS 1:19–23; ROMANS 8:11

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you today. Death had a perfect record until one Sunday morning when Jesus walked out of the tomb. That resurrection power—immeasurable, mighty, victorious—is available to you. Your confidence isn't in positive thinking or personal strength; it's rooted in the resurrection of Christ. If God conquered death, there's nothing He can't handle in your life. Jesus is not anxiously pacing heaven; He is seated at the right hand of the Father, reigning over every authority, every power, every name that can be named. Whatever has a name—depression, anxiety, fear, your situation—Jesus is above it. Pray with confidence today because your King is alive and reigning.

REFLECTION

What burden are you carrying that needs resurrection power applied to it today?

Open My Eyes

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Begin your time together by praying Paul's prayer: "Father, give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may truly see who You are and all that You've done for us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Ice Breaker: Share a time when you suddenly "saw" or understood something about God that changed your perspective on life or a difficult situation.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message walks through Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15–23. Paul shows us how to pray with gratitude for what God has already done, to pray for revelation so we truly know Him, and to pray with confidence grounded in the resurrection and reign of Jesus. Our greatest need isn't better circumstances—it's to have the eyes of our hearts opened to who God is.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 1:18–19

...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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1 · Pray with Gratitude (vv. 15–16)

- 1 Paul begins his prayer with thanksgiving before making any requests. How does this contrast with the way we typically pray?
- 2 Pastor Jay said, "Sometimes we become so focused on what God hasn't done yet that we completely overlook what He's already done." What are some specific things God has already done in your life that you can thank Him for today?

- 3 Paul thanks God for the Ephesians' faith and love—things that were visible and producing fruit. What evidence of God's work in your life might others be able to see?
- 4 Challenge: How might starting your prayers with gratitude change your perspective on your current circumstances?

Part 2 · Pray for Revelation (vv. 17–19)

- 1 “Knowing about God doesn't mean you really know Him.” What's the difference between intellectual knowledge of God and personal, intimate knowledge of Him?
- 2 Paul prayed for three specific revelations: the hope of God's calling, the riches of God's inheritance in the saints (our value to God), and the immeasurable greatness of God's power. Which of these three do you most need God to open your eyes to right now? Why?
- 3 Pastor Jay said, “You are treasured by God...not because you've earned it, but because of His grace and mercy.” How does understanding that you are God's inheritance change the way you see yourself?
- 4 Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Why is it necessary for God to supernaturally open our spiritual eyes? What does this tell us about our need for the Holy Spirit?

Part 3 · Pray with Confidence (vv. 20–23)

- 1 Paul grounds his confidence in prayer on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How does the resurrection give us confidence when we pray?
- 2 “Jesus is above every name that can be named.” What specific “names”—fears, struggles, circumstances—in your life do you need to remember Jesus is above?
- 3 Jesus is described as being “seated” at the right hand of God, signifying His finished work. How does knowing that Jesus' work is complete affect your relationship with God?
- 4 “The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in your life.” How should this truth impact the way you face challenges this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Know better to do better** — growing in the knowledge of God is the root of spiritual growth.
- ✓ **Relationship, not religion** — God isn't looking for polished performances, but surrendered hearts.
- ✓ **Gratitude first** — prayer recognizes God's goodness before it brings requests.
- ✓ **Our deepest need is God Himself** — not better circumstances, but a deeper knowledge of Him.
- ✓ **You are treasured** — the cross settles the question of your value.
- ✓ **Pray with confidence** — Jesus is alive, reigning, and still opening eyes today.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one (or more) of the following to practice this week:

Option 1 Start a Gratitude Prayer Journal

Before making any requests in prayer, write down at least three things you're thankful for that God has already done.

Option 2 Memorize Ephesians 1:18–19

Hide God's Word in your heart by memorizing Paul's prayer, and recite it daily as your own prayer.

Option 3 Identify Your “Names”

List the fears, struggles, or circumstances that feel overwhelming. Write “Jesus is above...” over each one, then pray through the list, surrendering each to Christ's authority.

Option 4 Share Your Story

Tell someone this week about evidence of God's work in your life—your faith, your love for others, or a specific way God has been faithful.

Option 5 Study the Resurrection

Read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, or John 20–21) and reflect on what it means for your daily life and future hope.

PERSONAL JOURNALING

- Am I growing in my knowledge of God each day, or have I become complacent?
- What would change in my life if I truly believed I am treasured by God?
- Where have I been looking at the size of my problems instead of the size of my God?
- What does it look like to surrender my heart to God rather than just perform religious activities?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, open the eyes of our hearts. Help us to see the hope we have in Christ, to understand how precious we are to You, and to experience Your resurrection power at work in our lives. We confess that we often focus on our circumstances instead of on You. Turn our eyes to Jesus, the risen and reigning King. May we know You better today than we did yesterday. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LEADER NOTES

- Create a safe environment where people feel comfortable sharing struggles and doubts.
- Be prepared to share first if the group is hesitant to open up.
- Don't rush. It's better to discuss fewer questions deeply than to cover everything superficially.
- Encourage practical application—help members identify specific, concrete steps for the week.
- Follow up with group members during the week about their application commitments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 2:1–10 in preparation for next week. Consider: what does it mean to be “made alive” in Christ, and how does understanding where we came from help us appreciate where we are now?

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The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you today.

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