

The Church... A *Master* Planned Community
The Ultimate in Benefits and Purpose (Eph. 3:14-21)
Small Group study questions for the week of March 8-14

GETTING STARTED

Has anyone ever told you that you are either not good enough, not strong enough, not talented enough, or smart enough to accomplish a certain task or goal? What was the short-term and (if any) long-term effect of that comment? How do Christians tend to do that with God? How do we put limits on what God can do? Take a few minutes in your group to discuss these questions.

DIGGING DEEP

Read through Ephesians 3:14-21 together as a group

1. In v.14 Paul kneels in prayer. The common form of Jewish prayer at the time was to stand and pray. Kneeling communicates a major seriousness about this prayer. Why do you think Paul was so serious about this prayer in v.16-21?
2. How does Paul specifically pray in v.16 & 17a? What is the purpose of this prayer?
3. Since these Ephesians to whom Paul is writing are already believers, his prayer for “Christ to dwell in your hearts” must mean something else. What do you feel he is getting at? And what does “faith” have to do with this?
4. What keeps many followers of Jesus from being conscious of his indwelling presence in their lives?
5. In v.17b, Paul uses two metaphors, one from nature (“rooted”) and one from architecture (“established/grounded”, literally a building’s foundation). What do you feel he is trying to communicate with these?
6. Paul prays for them to know the love of Christ. How does he describe this love in v.18-19?
7. Why do you think it’s important for believers to know the love of Christ to this extent? What are the things that keep us from experiencing this love?
8. Is there a connection between the first half of v.19 and the second half? If so, what is it?
9. If v.20-21 were all you were ever told about God what do they tell us?

A MATTER OF PRAYER

10. Can you think of an area or two in your life where God may want to do more than you can imagine? What would those be?
11. Consider closing your small group time reading v.20-21 together out loud and then praying for one another to set no limits on what God can do!

Next Week: Ephesians 4:1-6