

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Week 5 Study

Icebreaker

On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the highest), how much do you think God loves you? Why did you answer the way that you did?

Passage 1 Ephesians 3:7-13

The main purpose of this section is to demonstrate how the church reflects the wisdom of God in fulfilling His purposes. Paul states that God's wisdom is made known through the church of Jesus Christ, and the church is called to make God's wisdom known to "the ruler and authorities in the heavenly realms"

Reflection What did God intend to make known? How?

What is the main function and purpose of God's church?

How important in our world today is the church and its mission? Why?

Passage 2 Ephesians 3:14-19

Paul is about to begin his general and specific instructions for how to live out the Christian life in chapter 4-6. But before he does this, he makes some incredible requests on behalf of the Ephesians (his second prayer in the letter). He wants the deep truths of the gospel, which he's just explained, to sink deep in their hearts. In his prayer we'll see Paul's passion for the church's maturity and ultimately for God's glory.

Reflection What does Paul pray for? How would you summarize the main themes of his prayer?

What do you observed about the structure of Paul's prayer? How many requests does Paul have?

What are some of the metaphors Paul uses in this prayer (v.17)?

What did Paul pray the church would have the strength to do?

Who provides us with the power of God and How do we receive it?

Passage 3 Ephesians 3:14-19 cont...

The church (and our personal relationship with God) is grounded and established in the love of God. It was God's love that motivated Him to save us. It was God's love that saw fit to unite both Jew and Gentile into one Body in Christ Jesus. It was God's love that led Him to prepare a way for us to be forgiven and be able to relate with Him forever. It was God's love that had Him bless us with every spiritual blessing. This love is so great, it defies our comprehension.

Reflection How are maturity and an experiential knowledge of God's love related?

Where in this passage would you point a young believer who was convinced that Christianity is only a private experience?

Why do you think it is so important to Paul that we experience at the deepest level the love of Christ?

Describe a time when you were overwhelmed by an experience of the love of Christ. What keeps you from living out of a daily experience of the love of Christ? ?

Passage 2 Ephesians 3:20-21

Now Paul concludes with a doxology or blessing that speaks about God's power in our lives. Paul points out that God's exceedingly abundant power is at work within us. God can do far beyond what you can ask or imagine. His power can change your life. His power can transform those habits, vices, sins, and make us to be what God has called us to be. You have a glorious identity in Christ. His power can change everything about you. We just have to allow him to.

Reflection In this doxology, what does Paul teach us about God?

What is to be given to God, and for how long (v 20-21)?

How has this prayer challenged the way you think about praying for others? How does it invite you to pray differently?

Application

It seems that Paul is saying in this passage that in order to receive more of the power of God, the closer we have to be to God. Paul desires for you to see God's power in our everyday lives! The way Paul illustrates this power is by trusting in God by praying for God's church. For his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Who is it that you can take the time right now to pray for? Who is it that needs your prayers and needs your assistance as you try to point them back to God?