

“Eyes Wide Open”
Small Group Discussion
Ephesians 1:15-23

Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you all through God’s word, and to lead your discussion.

Opening Questions (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- What is one aspect of life on Long Island that you have had your eyes opened to in the past few years? (Examples: great seafood; access to entertainment; coastal views, etc.)
- What is one way that you feel your “spiritual eyes” have been opened in the last year?
- What regular practices do you engage in that would enable your “spiritual eyes” to be increasingly opened?
- In this week’s passage, Paul is praying for all of his readers to have their eyes opened, to all that is theirs/ours in Christ, and specifically, to three gifts.

Read Ephesians 1:15-23, then discuss the following.

- What questions or insights jump out at you on first reading of this passage?
 - Specifically, which words do you stumble over? As a group, try to make sense of those.
- Paul prays that we would come to know the following gifts. Spend some time discussing and thinking about these.

1. The gift of hope (v. 18b).

- How would you define “hope?”
- One definition we heard on Sunday was, “Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes” (Dictionary.com).
- Based on this definition, what have the events of the last few months done to your sense of hope?
- In what way does Jesus give us hope in a positive outcome, which can’t be touched by circumstance?
- In what way is this hope an “anchor for your soul?” (Heb. 6:19)
- What has helped you to make this hope a reality to your heart in the midst of difficult circumstances?

2. The richness of life together (v. 18c)

- Think about the phrase, “[God’s] glorious inheritance in his holy people.” What does it mean that God’s people are God’s glorious inheritance?
- What does this description say about your value, or the value of other people, to God?
- Building on that understanding, then, what would it look like for our eyes to be opened to the riches of this glorious inheritance?

- Pastor Josh summarized this gift as “the richness of life together.” At what times in your life have you most appreciated or benefitted from the shared life of the church family?
- If this gift has not yet been one that you’ve really appreciated, what has kept you from it?
- What might it look like for your group to embrace this gift to a greater degree?
- How could our church, as a whole, take this gift more seriously?

3. Incomparably great power (19-21).

- Why would believers need to have their eyes opened to the incomparable power that we have? What keeps us from seeing it or taking hold of it?
- What comparison does Paul give to help us appreciate the greatness of this power?
- For what tasks or purposes might we need this kind of power today?
- Has there been a time in your life when you have been living in the fullness of this power? What did that look like?
- How might you tap into this power more fully today? How can we as a group help one another to do that?

Sharing/Prayer

- Begin your prayer time by re-reading, and reflecting on, vv. 22-23. How might these verses guide you and encourage you as you pray?
- As always, take some time to share areas where you need people to pray for you. Spend time praying for one another, in light of vv. 22-23.
- Pray for one another with the hope and boldness that come from having our eyes opened!