

## Sermon Application

### LIVE IT OUT

#### 1. Practice Daily Worship

—First thing after you wake, kneel beside your bed and worship

Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

—Quote memorized scripture(s)

(Eph. 1:3, Psalm 103:1, Isaiah 6:3)

—Think through your to-do list

—Prayerfully create a "Spirit-list"

I need patience today for...

I need grace today because of...

I need comfort today in light of...

I need wisdom to make this decision...

I need power to overcome this temptation...

I need patience in dealing with this person...

#### 2. Practice Reconciliation Actively

—Since God is uniting all things in Christ, commit to one act of reconciliation this week: a conversation, apology, or step toward someone different from you.

#### 3. Turn Ordinary Moments into Worship

—Use small transitions—car rides, walking down a hallway, waiting in line—as prompts to quietly praise God. "Praying without ceasing" starts with worship woven into the mundane.

(scroll for discussion guide!)

## Community Group Discussion Guide

### Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

**Note:** Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

**Series Title:** Ephesians

**Main Idea:** In the book of Ephesians, we learn how the Gospel creates a new multi-ethnic, covenant family of God and affects how we live every day as a new humanity unified in love. Energized by the Holy Spirit, believers can stand tall against the spiritual evil that threatens our unity as a Church family and maturity as followers of Jesus.

### Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

**Note:** Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

**Message Title:** The God Who Does the Impossible, and Then Some

**Main Text:** Ephesians 3:20-21

**Supporting Text(s):** N/A

#### Message Outline:

Paul closes the first half of Ephesians with a doxology that bursts the seams of human language, because his heart is overwhelmed by the limitless power and infinite purposes of God. Praying without ceasing has led him to worship without ceasing—his theology has ignited doxology. He stretches Greek vocabulary and syntax to their breaking point because he has glimpsed God's plan to reunite all things in Christ, recreate a people for good

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works, and display divine wisdom to the universe. The only fitting response is awe.

*As a part of praying without ceasing, Paul worships without ceasing. (Ephesian 1:3, 14)*

- Paul, using Asiatic Greek, stretches the language to the breaking point on several occasions through the first half of the letter to name God's power, and respond in worship.
- Paul is stirred (and is stirring his readers) by God's immeasurable power that is now at work within "you" — which is to say, the family of God.

*Because God made humanity into one family again.*

- Paul is building on a common theme through the first three chapters, that "in Christ", what used to divide humanity has no power.
- That Christ has the power to unite all things in himself (1:10), bring close those who were far off (2:13), tear down the wall of hostility (2:14), reconcile us to God and each other through the cross (2:15), and make us—collectively—the new dwelling place for his very own spirit (2:22).
- Thus Paul is responding in worship and reverence to God's great power to do these things—which are exceedingly abundantly more than he (or anyone) could've ever thought (3:20).

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### Step 03: Lead group discussion.

**Note:** Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

#### Specific to this week's message:

1. Consider the first three chapters in Ephesians. What major themes have become clear in our study?
2. Ephesians 3:20 is an often quoted verse amongst believers (and rightfully so). As a group discuss the *context* of what God is doing beyond our expectations.
3. The first three chapters of this letter are littered with Paul's worship of who God is and what he has accomplished in Christ. How often are you moved to worship God not only on the basis of personal grace (or personal blessings) but because of his plan for salvation and reconciliation on a cosmic scale?

#### General questions:

4. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
5. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
6. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
7. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?