

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!*"

2. Pray for revelation, not just relief.

When you pray, ask God not only to change your situation but to open your eyes to see Him—and yourself—more clearly.

3. Replace old scripts with divine truth.

Identify one lie you've believed about your worth ("I'm not enough," "I'll always fail") and replace it daily with what Ephesians 1 says is true about you.

(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: When you Finally See Who You Really Are

Main Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Supporting Text(s): N/A

Message Outline:

Paul prays that followers of Jesus would have an apocalypse—a revelation—that opens their eyes to who God really is, which in turn reveals who they really are: people of hope, of infinite worth, and empowered by the very power that raised Christ from the dead.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Paul is Praying for the believers to have an apocalypse (revelation)

- Paul's praying for *believers* who are facing affliction and persecution yet his prayer is for *illumination* for them not *improvement* of their situation.
- Paul is praying this revelation should lead to them knowing: 1) the hope to which he called us, 2) the riches of *his* inheritance and 3) the immeasurable greatness of his power towards those who believe

This is a Prayer about Our Identity.

- "The riches of *his* glorious inheritance in the saints"
Paul is saying, YOU ALL—the Church—those who have put their faith in Christ are his inheritance!
- Paul wants them to have a revelation about who God is because it will also lead to a revelation about who they are.
- We all have scripts about who we believe we are.
Example: Gideon in Judges 6—God calls him a "mighty warrior" and Gideon laughs. Because scripts have power.

Lastly, Paul prays we would have a revelation of the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

- Paul wants the believers to have their eyes opened again to the fact that this same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in them.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Some ways to respond:

- Practice Daily Worship
- Pray for revelation not just relief
- Replace old scripts with divine truth

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. Compare and contrast Paul's prayer here with prayers you often pray for yourself, and your family or friends.
2. Discuss why Paul would pray for revelation for those who *already* believe in Jesus. What does this mean for us?
3. Discuss how our understanding of who God is helps us better understand who we are.
4. Share a few scripts that you repeat to yourself about yourself. What truth can you replace those with?
5. How often do you consider the greatness of God's power on your behalf?

General questions:

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