The Praying Church Ephesians 1:15-23 (esp. 1:20-23)

September 11, 2022 DISCUSSION GUIDE

TALK (get the conversation started; approximately 10 minutes)

- Share something great that happened this week.
- Share something you're thankful for...of course, you can share more than one thing.
- If you're still getting to know one another, take time to hear one another's story.

THINK (ask a question or two to get your group thinking; approximately 10 minutes)

- Complete this sentence: The Church is ______. Why is that your answer?
- What was your <u>one thing</u> from the message/Sunday? What one thing have you been thinking about (a new idea, an application, a challenge, a question, or a new thing you learned)?
- In what way, do you see the church needing to know Christ's authority more?
- In what way, do you need to know Christ's authority more?

DIG (open scripture and read; approximately 3 minutes)

- Read the passage aloud, everyone follow along in your copy of Scripture.
- Re-read the same passage, everyone simply listen as the Word is read aloud.

DISCUSS (meditate on and talk about what was just read; approximately 40 minutes; use HEAR)

- **<u>Highlight:</u>** What stands out to you (what you would highlight, underline, circle, make note of...)?
- **Explain:** How would you explain this passage to someone hearing it for the first time? What is the author's intended meaning in the context of the passage?
- **Apply:** What is the principle to live by today? How can this help me? What does this mean today? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? (
- **Respond:** How will I respond to the application in my relationships and/or situations this week? What are you going to do about this?
- Other questions:
 - ✓ What does this passage say God has done?
 - \checkmark What does this passage tell us about God? ...about humanity? ...about me?
 - ✓ What does this passage teach us about the Gospel, the message of God providing a
 rescue plan for sinners through Jesus Christ?
- If we the church are Christ's body, what does that indicate about how Christ intends to express his headship on earth?
- <u>Complete this statement: "Based on what we've read</u> and discussed, this week, I will..."



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PRAY (wrap up sharing and taking unhurried time to pray)

- If applicable, are there any updates to previous prayer requests or praises?
- How can we pray for one another? Do your best to limit the sharing to the needs within the group.
- How can we praise with one another?

CONNECTION (use these questions to help with accountability)

- Have you spent time in the Word and prayer this week? If not, what got in the way? If so, share something you learned or something that challenged you?
- Have you share the gospel or your testimony with anyone this week?
- Have you spent quality time with your family this week?
- Men, have you loved your wife well this past week?
- Ladies, have you respected your husband well this week?
- How have you loved the unlovable this week?

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