

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week Pastor Don continues to challenge us to make sure that we don't just know *about* God, but that we truly know Him in a personal way through our acceptance of forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Jesus. Our passage for today is found in Ephesians 1:15-20 where Paul tells the followers of Jesus at the church in Ephesus not only that he's praying for them, but exactly what he's asking God for on their behalf - which is an unshakeable conviction of what it means to be in a right relationship with God. To get your group started, ask some in the group to share about a person who invested in their life when they were younger - what did that person do and how did it affect the person they are today?

BIG THOUGHT

When we move from knowing *about* God to following Him in a personal relationship based on Jesus' sacrifice, He promises to bless us in ways that we will never experience otherwise.

Dig

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-16. What two things motivated Paul to pray for the Jesus followers in Ephesus? And what was his foundational attitude toward them in his prayers? Have you ever had anyone pray for you this way? Is there anyone you pray for regularly like this? Share with the group.
2. Read v. 17. What specific blessings is Paul praying for the Ephesians in this verse? What do you think it would mean for you to have the Holy Spirit increase your wisdom? Or to help you grow in your understanding of God?

3. Now read v. 18. What do you think could be different in your life if you were able to live confidently in the knowledge that God will always be there for you? Or that He considers you a "rich and glorious inheritance"? How can knowing that we are cared for impact both our motivations and actions?
4. Read verses 19-20. To whom is God's power available? And what is that power capable of? (v. 20) Do you think most of Jesus' followers live with the awareness that Paul is praying for here? Why or why not? Explain your thoughts to the group.
5. To finish, read another of Paul's encouragements, this time written to the believers in Colossae in Colossians 2:6-7. What does he list as the process to a strong faith? Where would you say you are in the process? Why?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for all that He offers in Ephesians 1:15-20 do for and in us, and ask for His help to live in the power He promises. Then ask God to do these same things (Eph. 1:15-20) for someone in *your* life like Paul did for the Ephesians.

Daily Readings

Day 1: Colossians 1:9
Day 2: John 1:16
Day 3: Psalm 34:8

Day 4: Ephesians 1:3
Day 5: Philippians 4:19
Day 6: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:19



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