

Seacoast Church Small Group Questions

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New & Improved: Praying for Each Other [Ephesians 1:15-23] Small Group Lesson

Scripture

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NLT) - (15)Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, (16)I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, (17)asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. (18)I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called-his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. (19)I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power (20)that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. (21)Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else-not only in this world but also in the world to come. (22)God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. (23)And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Icebreaker

Today's passage talks about the things that we ask God to do for one another. Before you get serious about prayer, have some fun talking about three wishes. If a genie were to pop out of a bottle, what would you ask for?

Discussion Questions

1. Ask somebody to read the passage of scripture above. How is Paul's prayer different from your prayers?
2. In verses 15-16 Paul says, "For this reason...I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Who are you thankful for and why?
3. Describe the qualities that Paul's prayers for the Ephesians focus on. Why do you think he focuses his prayer in this way?
4. What can you learn about praying for others from Paul's prayers?
5. In verse 18, Paul prays that their "hearts would be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given..." Greg used the illustration with the camera to describe how our hearts are flooded with light. In what ways can we open the lens of our heart to allow more of God's light in?
6. Greg said, "God sees around corners that you cannot see?" Why do you think God says no sometimes? Share about a time when God did not answer a prayer the way that you thought he would.
7. Think about one person in your small group that you are going to pray for this week. Send them an email this week letting them know that you are praying for them.