

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

**Ephesians** – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

## Ephesians 1:15-23

- Read Ephesians 1:15-23
- What insight, principle, or observation from this Sunday’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

### 2 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Paul’s Gratitude and Prayer**
- **The Importance of Knowing**

#### I. Paul’s Gratitude and Prayer

- What part does prayer play in your daily life?
- What characteristics of the church in Ephesus prompted Paul to be thankful? Why these specific characteristics?
- Why do you think Paul added the title Lord in verse 15?
- Why is the love for fellow saints so important? Why was Paul thankful for this?
  - **Read 1 John 3:14** to help answer this question.
- What are ways we can cultivate a deeper love for the saints (brothers, fellow Christians)?

- Who does Paul thank in verse 16? Why is this significant?
- What do you think motivated Paul's prayer in Eph. 1:15-23? What do you think motivated Paul to write out his prayer for the church to read?
- Is it surprising that Paul prayed for the church to "know?" Why or why not?
- How does Paul's prayer compare to how you typically pray for others?
- Have you ever prayed for someone to gain knowledge? Why is the prayer for knowledge such a good prayer?
- Paul prayed for his readers to know God better. What does "knowing God" involve and why is it so important?
- Read the prayer in Eph. 3:14-19 and discuss the similarities to the prayer in Eph. 1:15-23.
- Which of the things Paul prays for do you most need to pray for? Explain your answer.
- How does Paul describe the power of God? Why is it significant that Paul prays for the Ephesians to "know" this power rather than to "receive" this power?
- Someone has said, "The purpose of prayer is not to inform God of our needs, but to invite Him to rule our lives." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How would you assess your current prayer life? In what ways does it honor God? In what ways does it fail to honor God? What needs to change about the content and frequency of your intercession? How can we keep each other accountable, as a group, to God-honoring prayer?

## II. The Importance of Knowing

- What is the purpose of the Church? Take some time to discuss this.
- Read and discuss the following quote from John Piper's book, "Let the Nations be Glad."
  - Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the

throne of God, missions will be no more. It is temporary necessity.  
But worship abides forever. – Piper

- Discuss as a group what worship is and how it relates to love, specifically, the love of God.
- How do worship & love relate to joy?
- Do you agree with the following quote, “The knowledge of God is foundational to the love and worship of God?”
- Discuss the following quote by R. C. Sproul.
  - For the soul of a person to be inflamed with passion for the living God (passionate worship), that person’s mind must first be informed about the character & will of God. There can be nothing in the heart that is not first in the mind. – **R. C. Sproul**
- Why are knowledge, truth, theology and doctrine so important to worship? Why are they important to the church?
- Have you seen a trend in Christianity to emphasize emotion and experience over truth and doctrine? How and why is this dangerous?
- In what ways do you personally emphasize emotion and experience over truth and doctrine?
- In what ways do you need the eyes of your understanding to be enlightened? What are ways you can fully appreciate the riches of God and His grace in your life?