

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 1:18-23

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Paul’s Prayer for Knowledge**
- **Paul’s Example of God’s Great Power**
- **God’s Gift to the Church**

I. Paul’s Prayer for Knowledge

- **Read Eph. 1:15-19**
- **Read Eph. 1:18** – What is Hope? How is it related to your calling?
- Why does Paul want us to know about the hope of our calling? Why does he want us to know about our glorious inheritance?
- What does it look like for you to live as a person with hope rather than hopelessness?
- **Read Eph. 1:12** – How does hope glorify God?
- **Read Colossians 1:9-12** and compare it to Eph. 1:15-23
- In what ways does this passage specifically echo the Pauline teaching that right thinking leads to right living?

- Colossians 3:2 says, “set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” How does this admonition relate to the manner in which Paul prayed?
- Read and discuss the following quote from John MacArthur –
 - For Christians, prayer is like breathing. You don’t have to think to breathe because the atmosphere exerts pressure on your lungs and forces you to breathe. That’s why it is more difficult to hold your breath than it is to breathe. Similarly, when you’re born into the family of God, you enter into a spiritual atmosphere wherein God’s presence and grace exert pressure, or influence, on your life. Prayer is the normal response to that pressure. As believers we have all entered the divine atmosphere to breathe the air of prayer. Only then can we survive in the darkness of the world.
 - Unfortunately, many believers hold their spiritual breaths for long periods, thinking brief moments with God are sufficient to allow them to survive. But such restricting of their spiritual intake is caused by sinful desires. The fact is, every believer must be continually in the presence of God, constantly breathing in His truths to be fully functional. God’s deeper truths cannot be seen with our eyes, heard with our ears, or comprehended by our reason or intuition. They are revealed only to those who love Him. – John MacArthur

II. Paul’s Example of God’s Great Power

- **Read Ephesians 1:19-23**
- How did God demonstrate His power to us?
- Why do we need God’s power?
 - ***Leader’s Cheat:** Read Ephesians 2:1-3 for help in answering this question.*
- Do you see every conversion to Christ as a miracle?
- How is it humbling to know that it took a miracle (the same power that raised Jesus from the dead) to bring you to salvation?
 - ***Leader’s Cheat:** Read Ephesians 2:4-6 for help in answering this question. Compare Ephesians 2:6 with Ephesians 1:20.*

- 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?
 - ***Leader’s Cheat:** you had this question last week. If you got to it just review the answers.*
- Which is a greater temptation for you: to live as if you are powerless and no power is available, or to live as if you have plenty of power without relying on God? Explain.
- How should the truth that Christ is exalted above all (1:20-23) alter the way you live every day?

III. God’s Gift to the Church

- Read Ephesians 1:22-23
- How is the Church the Body of Christ? What does it mean that Christ is the Head?

***Leaders:** Please be aware of anyone that is single, widowed, or divorced in the group and be mindful of how you approach the following questions.*

- What is significant about the Church being the Bride of Christ? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Revelation 19:6-7
 - Revelation 21:1-2
- **Read Eph. 5:22-33** and discuss the correlation of your marriage to Christ and the Church. How should our marriages reflect God’s grace?
- How can we as a group keep each other’s marriages accountable?
- Consider breaking up your small group into genders and have the group pray for each other’s marriages.