

The 5 Marks of Missional Living - Intercession

Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today's passage is Ephesians 3:14-21. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on page 1855. - JF

Questions:

Reflect on a time when you were in a group praying for others. What types of things were you praying for? What about that prayer time made an impact on you? What do you desire for others to know/understand about praying for other people? What is easier – praying for others or praying for yourself? Why is that?

Intercessory prayer intends “to turn my concerns and worries into prayer; to enter God’s heart for the world and then pray from there” [Adele Ahlberg Calhoun]. As we enter into Ephesians 3:14-21, we see Paul’s concerns for the Ephesian church and his desire for their spiritual lives to grow and mature. From your initial reading of this passage, what parts of Paul’s prayer stands out to you? Why is that? What does Paul’s requests reveal about his heart and desires for the Ephesians? Why do you say that? What do your prayers say about your own heart and desires?

What does Paul demonstrate by saying that he bows his knees before the Father? Why is that important? How do you find yourself bowing before our Heavenly Father? In verse 16, Paul speaks of the riches of God’s glory; what does he mean by that phrase? How is one strengthened in their inner being? Why does a person need to be strengthened? What is an example from your life where you were strengthened by the Holy Spirit in your Christian walk? What did Paul mean by saying that Christ would dwell in the Ephesians’ hearts through faith? Why is that reality important to Christians? What did Paul mean by being rooted and grounded in faith? What does that look like in your life or in the life of someone you are close with?

Consider the Grand Canyon, Palo Duro Canyon, or some other canyon. If you have personally visited one of these places, describe for the group just how different you imagined the vastness of the canyon compared to what your experience was (*typically seeing the canyon in person is more impressive than pictures and imagination*)? Now, consider and describe what it would take to fill in one of these canyons. Would it be easy, simple, or doable to smooth everything over? Why is that? Now consider and meditate upon the breadth, length, height, and depth of which God’s love is demonstrated in the cross and in His grace towards you. How does that make you feel? How do you want to respond to God’s love moving forward? What does Paul mean when he says God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think? Why is it important to know that God is able to do abundantly more than we ask or think? What difference does that make on a daily basis?

Pastor Brandon preached our message on Sunday. Is there anything he taught that stood out to you that you would like to discuss in the group? Is there anything else that we have not touched on during our group time that you would like to now discuss?

Conclusion:

As a group, consider making plans (and following through) with prayer walking the neighborhood where your group meets. Walk the sidewalks, parks, schools, and even church buildings while praying for God’s will and people’s needs to come to fruition. Another suggestion you might consider is setting an alarm or calendar event for a consistent opportunity to intercede for others. For example, your group might decide to set a calendar event for the second Tuesday of each month to pray at 12p. Then group members can pray wherever they are physically, but they will know that each group member is interceding on one another’s behalf. These suggestions are practical ways that we can begin to apply what we are learning so that we can live out our faith.