

Ephesians 1:15-23

EPHESIANS GC DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Knowing the God Who Has Saved Us

Big Idea

The greatest need of Christians is not merely more information about God but deeper spiritual understanding of who God is and what He has already accomplished for them in Christ.

Main Theme

Paul prays that believers would see and experience the hope, inheritance, and power that are already theirs through their union with Christ.

Opening Icebreaker

Think about a relationship that deepened over time. What made that relationship grow?

Transition: Paul's prayer is not merely that believers would know more facts about God but that they would know God more deeply.

Discussion Questions

1. What encourages Paul to pray for the Ephesian believers in verses 15–16?

Leader Notes: Paul sees evidence of genuine conversion:

- Faith in Christ
- Love for believers

These are recurring marks of authentic Christianity.

2. Why do you think Paul spends more time praying for spiritual understanding than for physical circumstances?

Leader Notes: Paul understands that transformed hearts are more important than changed circumstances.

Discuss how this challenges many modern prayer habits.

3. What does Paul mean when he asks God to give believers "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (v.17)?

Leader Notes:Paul is not asking for new revelation but spiritual illumination. Believers need help seeing and applying truths already revealed in Scripture.

4. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?

Leader Notes:Many people possess biblical information without intimacy.

Discuss:

- Relationship
- Worship
- Trust
- Fellowship

5. What does Paul mean by "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened" (v.18)?

Leader Notes:The heart refers to the center of one's being.

Paul is praying for spiritual perception.

Truth must move from the head to the heart.

6. What is "the hope to which He has called you"?

Leader Notes:Hope is confident expectation, not wishful thinking.

Discuss:

- Resurrection
- New creation
- Christ's return
- Eternal life

7. How does Christian hope differ from the way the world typically uses the word "hope"?

Leader Notes:Worldly hope = uncertainty

Biblical hope = confidence grounded in God's promises

8. What do you think Paul means by "the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints"?

Leader Notes:Possible emphasis:God delights in His redeemed people as His treasured possession.

This highlights God's affection for His church.

9. Why do Christians often live as though God's power is unavailable to them?

Leader Notes:Discuss:

- Fear
- Self-reliance
- Unbelief
- Discouragement

10. What event does Paul use as the ultimate demonstration of God's power (vv.20–21)?

Leader Notes:The resurrection and exaltation of Jesus.

God's power is not theoretical—it raised a dead Savior and enthroned Him as King.

11. What comfort do you find in Christ's authority over every ruler, power, authority, and dominion?

Leader Notes:Christ reigns above:

- Governments
- Nations
- Demonic forces
- Cultural trends
- Future uncertainties

Nothing threatens His throne.

12. What does it mean practically that Christ is the Head of the church (vv.22–23)?

Leader Notes:Christ:

- Leads the church
- Sustains the church
- Protects the church
- Builds the church

This creates confidence in ministry and mission.

Digging Deeper

Read verses 18–19 again.

Paul wants believers to know:

- The hope of God's calling
- The riches of God's inheritance

- The greatness of God's power

Which of these three do you most need to understand more deeply right now?

Gospel Connection

The power that:

- Created the world
- Raised Jesus from the dead
- Exalted Him above every power

is now at work in every believer through the Holy Spirit.

Christianity is not merely following Jesus' example—it is living through Jesus' power.

Prayer Focus

Pray Paul's prayer for one another:

"Lord, open the eyes of our hearts so that we may know You more deeply, trust You more fully, and live confidently in the hope, inheritance, and power that are ours in Christ."