

Ephesians 3:14-21

EPHESIANS GC DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ephesians 3:14–21

Strengthened by Love

Big Idea

Paul prays that believers would experience the fullness of God's love and power so that they might become mature followers of Christ who bring glory to God.

Main Theme

The Christian life is sustained not merely by knowing about God's love but by experiencing and living in the reality of God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Icebreaker

Who has had a significant influence on your spiritual growth, and what made their influence so impactful?

Transition: Paul loved the Ephesian believers deeply, and his prayer reveals what he most wanted for their spiritual maturity.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Paul's posture of kneeling in prayer communicate about his relationship with God (v.14)?

Leader Notes: Kneeling often expressed humility, dependence, and reverence.

Paul recognizes that spiritual growth ultimately comes from God.

2. Why do you think Paul prays for believers rather than simply instructing them?

Leader Notes: Spiritual transformation requires divine power.

Information alone cannot produce maturity.

3. What is Paul's first request in verse 16?

Leader Notes: That believers would be strengthened with power through the Spirit in their inner being.

The Christian life is lived from the inside out.

4. What does it mean for Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith (v.17)?

Leader Notes:Paul is not referring to conversion alone.

He is praying that Christ's presence would increasingly influence every part of life.

5. What imagery does Paul use when he describes believers as "rooted and grounded in love"?

Leader Notes:Two pictures:

- A tree with deep roots
- A building with a strong foundation

God's love is meant to stabilize believers.

6. Why is it important to experience God's love rather than merely understand it intellectually?

Leader Notes:Many believers know God loves them but struggle to live as though it is true.

The gospel must move from the head to the heart.

7. What do you think Paul means when he describes the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love (v.18)?

Leader Notes:Paul is emphasizing the immeasurable greatness of Christ's love.

Its dimensions cannot be fully comprehended.

8. How have you personally experienced God's love during difficult seasons?

Leader Notes:Allow space for testimonies and encouragement.

9. What does Paul mean when he prays that believers would be "filled with all the fullness of God" (v.19)?

Leader Notes:This does not mean becoming divine.

It means increasing maturity, Christlikeness, and spiritual fullness.

10. What encouragement do you find in verses 20–21?

Leader Notes:God is able to do:

- More than we ask
- More than we imagine
- According to His power at work within us

These verses inspire confidence in prayer and mission.

11. How does God's power differ from the way we often think about power?

Leader Notes: God's power often works through:

- Weakness
- Dependence
- Humility
- Faithfulness

Rather than worldly strength.

12. Which part of Paul's prayer do you most need God to answer in your life right now?

Leader Notes: Encourage specific responses:

- Strength
- Deeper awareness of God's love
- Spiritual maturity
- Confidence in prayer
- Greater dependence on Christ

Digging Deeper

Notice the progression of Paul's prayer:

- Strengthened by the Spirit
- Christ dwelling richly in our hearts
- Rooted in love
- Understanding Christ's love
- Filled with God's fullness
- Bringing glory to God

How does each step build on the previous one?

Gospel Connection

The love Paul describes is ultimately displayed at the cross.

The width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love can be seen in:

- His incarnation
- His sacrifice
- His resurrection
- His ongoing intercession

God does not merely tell us He loves us; He demonstrates it through Jesus.

Prayer Focus

Spend time praying Paul's prayer for one another:

- Strength in the inner person
- Deeper experience of Christ's love
- Spiritual maturity
- Greater faith in God's power
- A life that brings glory to God

Closing Challenge

This week, read Ephesians 3:14–21 every day and turn Paul's prayer into your own prayer. Ask God not merely to teach you about His love but to help you experience it more deeply.