

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

Imagine the thrill of being an explorer. What must it have been to live the experiences of Christopher Columbus, David Livingston, Meriwether Lewis and John Clark, or, more recently, John Glenn? God gives mankind an insatiable curiosity coupled with a drive to develop, improve, and progress. These innate desires serve us well as we explore God and His creation.

But for many Christians living in a broken world, we lose our curiosity of God. Curiosity and inquisitiveness are replaced by boredom, skepticism, and complacency. Naturally, when we lose our curiosity of God, we fail to develop or progress in our faith. Bottom line: we never “grow up” in Christ.

The issue of spiritual complacency is not unique to the 21st century. Some time between 60-64 A.D., the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the churches in and around the area of Ephesus. Unlike many of Paul’s letters, Ephesians is not written in response to a particular circumstance or theological controversy. Instead, Ephesians is a theological exploration of the blessings of life in Christ!

Paul emphasizes these lavish blessings to strengthen believers in their Christian faith. He calls Christians to action, inviting us explore the vast depths of God’s love demonstrated in Christ Jesus: to “grow up” in Christ.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.
  
- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does Ephesians 1:15-23 teach us about God?
  
- Knowing what Ephesians 1:15-23 teaches us about God, what does the passage teach us about humanity?



- In Ephesians 1:15-18, Paul give thanks to God because the Ephesians have come to know Christ as Savior. He shares his desire that they might come know God more intimately and have a growing relationship with Christ. Identify some essential spiritual disciplines that will help you grow up in Christ. Of these disciplines, which are easy to practice? Which disciplines might be easier if you enlisted the help of an accountability partner(s)?
- Paul prays that God will give the Ephesians a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to provide wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Christ. The outcome being that disciples' eyes and hearts may be enlightened and that they might know:
  1. *"The hope to which God has called you."* Do you have confidence and assurance that accompanies God's call of salvation and adoption into His family? What other callings from God are you confident in? How can your Life Group pray for you as you live these?
  2. *"The riches of God's glorious inheritance in the saints."* Disciples of Christ are valuable to God. God has purchased them through Christ in order that He might inherit them. How does knowing you are of great value to God impact your life today? How might this knowledge compel you to "grow up" in spiritual maturity?
  3. *"The immeasurable greatness of God's power toward us who believe."* Paul wants disciples of Christ not to simply know that God is powerful, but to know that God has put His power into effect for the advantage of *all* believers. There are no exceptions. How would you live differently if you embraced the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward you?

## Do Life Together

**These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!**

- How is God calling you to "grow up" in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has Jesus proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

**Celebrate the power of Christ by praying through Ephesians 1:19-23.**

