

EPHESIANS

WEEK OF September 30 – October 6 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aide for you to experience Christ together.

Prayer: Begin your time in group together by inviting God to be with you. Ask Him to change you as you seek Him and study His Word together. Ask him to use everyone in the group to encourage, challenge, and teach one another.

Bible Study:

1. This week we continued our series “Praying with Purpose.” So far we have learned some powerful lessons concerning the art of prayer. Pastor Vance continued to teach out of Ephesians 1:17 by sharing a second reminder: *“We should always remember the purpose for which we pray.”*
 - a. **What is the purpose for our prayers towards other believers?**
 - b. **Why is knowing God more, specifically growing in intimacy with him, the most important thing we can pray?**
2. Out of this point, Pastor Vance gave us three specific requests we can pray for other believers. The first being, *“Pray that they practically apply the knowledge of God.”* This request stemmed from Paul praying that God would give the believers at Ephesus a spirit of wisdom.
 - a. **What does it mean to practically apply the knowledge of God every day moment by moment?**
 - b. **Pastor Vance taught that prayer was simply conversation with the Father. He asked the question, “What if tomorrow at work, school, neighborhood, home... every decision, every action, every reaction, every attitude, every thought in your life was born out of fellowship with the Father?”**
3. The second request he taught was, *“Pray that they daily pursue the knowledge of God.”* This request is found in Paul praying that God would give the believers at Ephesus a spirit of revelation. This word means to make known something that was hidden or covered.
 - a. **Pastor Vance shared this quote by Clyde Cranford, “For centuries, those who have truly sought to know God intimately have found it imperative to set aside some time in each day to focus their attention and affection on Him...as we spend devotional time in the Word and in prayer, God is pleased to commune with us and to reveal more of who He is, little by little.”**
 - b. **How does this quote land with you? Why is it important that we spend time with the Father?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance started to share the third request, *“Pray that they continuously grow deeper in the knowledge of God.”* We’ll be learning more about this point next week, but Pastor Vance closed on an important note. Paul uses the phrase, “That God... may give to you” in v.17, this is a subjunctive verb meaning it has potential action. It may or not may not happen.
 - a. **In light of this, how do our prayers play into God’s activity in the lives of other believers?**
 - b. **He shared a quote by John Wesley, “I am convinced that God does nothing on earth except in answer to prayer.” Why is this statement true with this concept in mind? How should we now view our responsibility to pray for one another?**