

# TEACH US TO PRAY

## Week 6 Discussion Questions

### Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Strength

Ephesians 3:13-21

#### Icebreaker:

What are you looking forward to most this summer?

#### Read this week's passage (Ephesians 3:13-21).

What stands out to you from the passage or sermon this week?

**Recap:** What is the purpose of prayer (especially considering what we've learned over the past 6 weeks in this series)?

Paul begins this section of his letter with the phrase "For this Reason...", which should prompt us to ask, "For what reason?" Look back at Ephesians 2:11-3:12 and discuss the "reason" Paul prays in this way for the church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 2:18—"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."

Ephesians 3:12 "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him."

This forms the basis for which Paul prays ("For this reason I bow my knees to the Father...."). Through Christ's death/cross-work, we have bold access to PRAY.

Then, 3:13 is a clue for what it is that Paul Prays for the Ephesians and us: That they would not be discouraged or lose heart.

List together the specific things Paul prays over the church in Ephesus.

God would grant them strength through the Spirit

Christ would dwell in their hearts

They would have faith

They would be rooted in love

They would have deep knowledge of the infinite love of Christ

Filled with the fullness of God

God would be given the glory

What does Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus here teach us about God and the power of prayer?

# TEACH US TO PRAY

Paul's prayer is distinctly Trinitarian. His prayer uses Christ, Father, and Spirit almost interchangeably, but also pointedly. It is this triune God who is the power to answer our prayers and it is this same God that will be glorified in our prayers and through our lives. It is through Christ's deep love and faithfulness that we live. Though we suffer and life can be hard, we can have confidence in Christ and his goodness and love.

What does Paul's prayer here being in the form of a letter teach us about our own prayers for others?

Paul shares his prayer with those he's praying for so that they might be encouraged by truth and also participate in this prayer and connection with God themselves. When we pray corporately, we are inviting others to be strengthened by our own faith and find their own connection to God as well.

This series in prayer was titled "Teach us to Pray" after the disciples' request to Jesus in Luke 11:1. What is the most surprising thing you learned about prayer during this series?

In what ways do you hope the practice of prayer grows in your life this next season?

What is one way you plan to intentionally implement what you've learned about prayer into your daily life?