

UNWRAPPING THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS

Ephesians 1:15-20

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

• Option #1: Missions Conference

- This is Missions Conference weekend at Saylorville. Talk about what you've experienced this weekend - interactions with missionaries, new insights, questions you have, new ways to pray, etc.
- Have you ever considered yourself as a missionary - perhaps in your neighborhood, your workplace, your school, your family, etc? Have you ever wondered if God is calling you into full-time missions?

• Option #2: Praying Differently

- Have you ever prayed with someone that seemed to transport you to Heaven while they were praying? How did he/she pray?
- How are their prayers different than your own? Are there ways in which you can imitate their way of praying?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat used the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Ephesians to tell us how he prays for Saylorville Church.**

I Pray That You Would Experience...

1. Inspiration - to increase your spiritual depth (Ephesians 1:17)

- If you've been saved, you already have all you need in Christ, so why continue to pursue more? What are some ways God has blessed you since the day you trusted Christ as Savior?
- Are you growing in Christ? Here's a simple way to find out: Is the depth of your growth producing increased faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13)? Well...is it?

2. Illumination - to see beyond life's circumstances (Ephesians 1:18)

- Based on your priorities, are you more concerned that the eyes of your heart are enlightened, or that the brain in your head is increased?
- How might you respond to this AW Tozer quote, "It's doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply."
- What are some life circumstances you are in right now that you need to see beyond?

3. Initiation - to experience and exercise God's power (Ephesians 1:19-20)

- Paul uses four different words in these verses to emphasize the immeasurable greatness of God. The picture is that, through the greatness of God, Christ-followers have God's power to live on mission, to keep going, to obey, and to resist temptation. Which of these aspects of God's greatness do you need to access this week?
- What might happen this week if you DON'T access the resurrection power available to you?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, go back and read Ephesians 1:15-21 together, then pray Paul's prayer for each other:
Inspiration - to increase your spiritual depth; **Illumination** - to see beyond life's circumstances;
Initiation - to experience and exercise God's power

