

One BRMC Small Group Study

Enlightenment in Christ

Participant's Guide

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 20 September 2020.

Scripture Passage:

Ephesians 1:15-23

Context:

We begin our sermon series of Ephesians and today, we take a look at an overview of Ephesians. The sermon our study guide is written on is called Enlightenment in Christ. Enlightenment refers to a realization and deep profound understanding. While we may learn many religious truths, this refers to the moment when we bring the head knowledge to become heart knowledge and when we live out God's truth in our lives.

We are also reminded in the message from the pulpit that within each small group, we have a leader who has committed to praying, journeying and guiding us towards enlightenment in Christ.

As we go into this study, may we realize God's truth in our lives so that we may live it out for Him. May we also pause to give thanks to our small group leader(s) for their faithful service to God.

Introductory

1. Paul prays that the 'eyes of [the] hearts' of the Ephesians will be enlightened. (v18) How does the work of enlightenment come about?
2. Paul prays that the Ephesians will come to know of the 'riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.' (v18) What does this glorious inheritance refer to?
3. Paul also prayed that the Ephesians would understand the 'immeasurable greatness of [Jesus'] power.' (v19) Where does this power come from and what does it refer to?

Reflection

4. Who or what do you look to as the source of our power, possessions and prayers? (Is it your status or position, wealth, or seniority in age or membership in the church, or is it something else?)

5. How have you used the power, possessions and prayers for the good and growth of the people around you? Have you received the help or guidance or prayers of someone that has been for your good and growth in Christ (such as, perhaps your small group leader)?

Application

6. As you rely on Christ's blessings, what is one practical change that you are going to make in your life? What is one practical step that you could take to work towards the good and growth of another?

Prayer

7. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.

(a) What is in your heart for yourself?

- Perhaps you may want to bring a struggle to Christ today.

"Father in heaven, I come to Your cross today to release this burden of... that I am struggling with. Father, I trust that through the power of the cross, I have victory over this struggle. May You fill me with Your peace that surpasses all understanding and Your reassurance that with Your power from Your love, I can overcome any struggle. In Jesus' name. Amen"

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you feel led to serve and build up someone or a new ministry.

"Heavenly Father, I thank you for this calling that You have placed in my life. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, may you reveal Your will to me clearly and fully. I pray that as I serve, may my service be an outpouring of Your love. As I follow You, may You grant me strength and energy to continue to further Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen."

- It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.