

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

May 2013

## *Ephesians: God's Plan For His Church*

### **Lesson #6: A Prayer For The Ephesians**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- How do your prayers today compare with 5 years ago? Why & how have they changed (or not)?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

*Note: Solomon prayed on his knees (1 Kings 8:54). Ezra prayed on his knees (Ezra 9:5). The Psalmist called us to kneel (Psalm 95:6). Daniel prayed on his knees (Daniel 6:10). People came to Jesus kneeling (Matthew 17:14, Matthew 20:20, and Mark 1:40). Stephen prayed on his knees (Acts 7:60). Peter prayed on his knees (Acts 9:40). Paul prayed on his knees (Acts 20:36), and other early Christians prayed on their knees (Acts 21:5). Most importantly, Jesus prayed on His knees (Luke 22:41). The Bible has enough prayer not on the knees to show us that it isn't required, but it also has enough prayer on the knees to show us that it is good.*

1. What does Paul mean by 'For this reason. . .' in verse 14? (hint: review verses 7-13)
2. What are some of God's "glorious riches"? Rom 2:4
3. If the Holy Spirit resides in every believer, why does Paul feel that faith will help people understand His "indwelling"? Rom 8:9-11

*Note: Two ancient Greek words convey the idea "to live in." One has the idea of living in a place as a stranger, and the other has the idea of settling down in a place to make it your permanent home. Dwell uses the ancient Greek word for a permanent home. Jesus wants to settle down in our heart, not just visit as a stranger.*

4. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be rooted and established in love? vv 17-19
5. What did Paul want the Ephesians to grasp? vs. 18; Rom 8:35-39
6. What does Paul think are some of God's key gifts to believers? vv 16,18,20; 17-19
7. Why are these gifts not used more?
8. How do we sometimes allow God to become too small in our lives?
9. How does Paul's doxology in verses 20-21 encourage you? Eph 1:19-21
10. Why isn't God considered "vain" if He is always seeking glory? Rom 11:36

#### **APPLICATION**

How can your prayers become more in tune with God?

*Can we really comprehend the width and length and depth and height of God's love? To come to any understanding of the dimensions of God's love, we must come to the cross. The cross pointed in four ways, essentially in every direction, because . . .1) God's love is wide enough to include every person, 2) God's love is long enough to last through all eternity, 3) God's love is deep enough to reach the worst sinner, 4) God's love is high enough to take us to heaven.*

*David Guzik, Study Guide For Ephesians, Blueletterbible.org*