

LIFEGROUPS

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD - PRAYER

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Why does Paul give thanks for the Ephesians? Do we pray like this (giving thanks for people)?
2. What three things does Paul pray for the Ephesians in verses 18 and 19?
3. What do each of these three things (in question 2) mean? What is the impact in our lives of knowing these three things?
4. What do we learn about Christ and his role from this passage?
5. What does the end of verse 23 mean?
6. What would it be like to be one of the Ephesians and know that Paul was constantly, praying these things for you?
7. Consider committing to praying for someone everyday for a month (you could even contact them each week to ask how to pray for them).

Leaders Notes

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader. Let the Word of God lead you and your Lifegroup to HEAR God's prophetic message this week as you explore His Word together.

A little context regarding the book of Ephesians

The book of Ephesians is a letter written by Paul to the Christians living in Ephesus. Paul was the one who brought the gospel to the Ephesian Christians and this letter is written to help continue to guide and encourage them as he is no longer their in person to teach them about God. In particular he is encouraging the Christians from non Jewish background to understand that they are just as much chosen by God as the Jewish Christians.

In this passage Paul praises God for his grace in rescuing the Ephesian Christians from sin - acknowledging that salvation is God's free gift and not something that can be earned. And he pray all the more that they understand God's full plan of salvation for their lives.

Question 5

If you get unstuck by question five try using a different Bible translation (perhaps the New Living Translation or the Message) or consult a study Bible.