

September 17 - Ephesians 1:15-23

Opening

What is one low (negative thing) that happened to you this past week? What is one high (positive thing)? Write them down. If you're meeting with a group, take turns sharing them with one another.

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life over the past week?

How have you been growing in the knowledge of God?

Prepare

Spend 1 minute in silence to center yourself and prepare to hear God's Word.

Read

Read Ephesians 1:15-23 twice. If you are in a group, have two people read it, one after the other, with a brief silence in between. As you read and/or listen, look for a word or a phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart. Circle it or jot it down. Linger over it and give it your attention. If you are in a group, take turns sharing your word or phrase and what it means to you.

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called-- his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else-- not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Reflect

Name someone you know who you think has “spiritual wisdom and insight.” How can you tell?

How have you seen God’s power at work around you?

How does it benefit the church that all things are under the authority of Christ? How does it benefit you?

Pray

Spend time in prayer for the church. If you are meeting in a group, share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Practice

...your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people...

Each day this week, look for ways to grow your faith in Jesus and love for others. Here are some ideas to try:

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Think of someone you struggle to love, and read it again.

Pray this prayer every day, or as often as you think of it: “I believe; help my unbelief!”
(Mark 9:24)

Name the people in your life that you love (or loved by), and say - Thank you, God!

Closing blessing

May God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God!