

The logo features the word "Ephesians" in a large, white, cursive script font. Below it, the word "EXTRAORDINARY" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif, all-caps font. The text is centered within a dark, circular background that has a subtle, textured appearance. The entire logo is set against a dark red, wood-grain-like background that spans the top of the page.

Ephesians EXTRAORDINARY

Discussion Guide | Week 7: Extraordinary Growth | March 27, 2022

INTRO VIDEO Start off your group by clicking the link below to watch session #5 of the series “The Book of Ephesians” by J.D. Greear on RightNow Media. This session covers the passages that Pastor Lee (3:14-21) & Pastor Mike (4:1-16) taught on the past two weeks.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/195647?session=202598>

OVERVIEW We have so much potential to grow & develop in our walk with Jesus, but we need to understand just who it is that we’re becoming. Fortunately for us, after spending Ephesians chapters 1-3 showing his readers what God has done for them in Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul turns his attention to helping them understand who they are & how they can participate in Jesus’ victory.

KEY VERSES Ephesians 4:1-3, 7-16 (NIV)

REMEMBER At the beginning of his message, Mike shared the story of Crystal Jones, a volunteer with *Teach for America* who transformed the lives of her 1st grader students by helping them embrace their new identity as young scholars focused on becoming 3rd graders. What stuck out to you about that story? How does it encourage, inspire, or challenge you? Share.

REFLECT Have someone read Ephesians 4:1-3. Consider the underlying attitudes Paul lists out that describe someone worthy of Jesus’ calling: humble, gentle, patiently bearing with others in love, and keeping unity through the bond of peace. These are the attitudes that drive our actions – the things we think, say, and do every day. Which of these attitudes do you see lived out faithfully in the Church today? Which ones not so much? Explain.

RESPOND Now read Ephesians 4:11-13 together. Mike pointed out that pastors should function like player/coaches who play the game themselves but whose primary role is to equip to other players in the game to do the ministry of the Church. Who is someone (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/shepherd, or teacher) who has functioned as a player/coach in your life up to this point? What has helped keep you focused on being a player in the game rather than a spectator in the stands? Share.

REAL LIFE Pastor Mike shared this quote below from Dr. Lynn Cohick to help us think through how we can respond to Paul’s encouragement to keep growing in our faith:

“Truth is to be lived out in such a way that the body of Christ grows bigger as new members are added and each one gains maturity; grows stronger as each by themselves and together understand more fully the riches of Christ; and grows steadier as the church stands firm in the face of struggles.”

Is the Holy Spirit challenging you to grow bigger, stronger, or steadier in your faith right now? Why do you think that is, and what do you need to do to make it happen? Share.

PRAYER TIME To close your time, take prayer requests from folks in your group & pray about them together. Challenge everyone to take a few minutes at least 3 times this week to thank God that he has included you in his great plan.