

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 textured, wood-grain-like appearance. The entire logo is set against a dark red background with a subtle, horizontal wood-grain pattern.

Ephesians

EXTRAORDINARY

Discussion Guide | Week 3: Extraordinary Intimacy | February 20, 2022

INTRO VIDEO Start off your group by clicking the link below to watch session #2 of the series “The Book of Ephesians” by J.D. Greear on RightNow Media.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/195647?session=202595>

OVERVIEW It’s one thing to know about Jesus with your head but another thing entirely to know Jesus with your heart. It’s the difference between information *about* Jesus & intimacy *with* Jesus. Often people open their Bibles to collect bits of info about Jesus yet never get around to growing any intimacy with Jesus. In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays that God’s people would know Jesus more intimately, not just from hearing a sermon or studying the Bible, but through a revelation from the Spirit of God that reminds us who Jesus is & what he has accomplished for us.

KEY VERSES Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV84)

REMEMBER What stands out to you as you think through what J.D. had to say? Any stories or sayings that grabbed you? Or did one of the 4 things Paul wanted the Ephesians to see (hope, their own worth to God, power, the finality of Jesus’ rule) really stick out to you? Share.

REFLECT Have someone in the group read vv. 15-16. If we think of these verses as specific actions that fit together to form a story, they could go something like this:

1. The Ephesian believers came to faith in the Lord Jesus.
2. They showed love for all God’s people.
3. Paul hears about this & gives thanks for them.
4. Paul remembers them in his prayers & doesn’t stop doing this.

How does viewing Paul’s prayer as a story change the way you look at it? And how could prayer-as-story affect the way you pray each day? Explain.

RESPOND Read vv. 19-20 where Paul talks about God’s power. Think of a part of your life that needs a touch of God’s power (e.g. – your attitude, health, struggle with temptation, relationships, etc.). How could God use His resurrection power to transform that? Explain.

REAL LIFE J.D. said this about hope: “What is our hope? That we are going to be face to face with God, be filled with Him, and be like Him! And this hope reshapes how we see everything in life. It shows us what God is doing in our pain—how He is weaving that glorious tapestry. It shows us what God wants to do with our blessings: to use them for His mission. That hope enables us to overcome temptation.”

What’s the best thing you can do for someone else to help them have this kind of hope? Share.

PRAYER TIME Close your time together by praying the prayer below based on today’s passage that Brad & J.D. talked about. Set a reminder to pray these words daily this week.

*Enlighten my heart, Lord, so that I may know:
The hope to which you have called me
The riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints
Your incomparably great power for those who believe
Your ultimate authority over everything, including your church and my family*