



Northland Christian Church

HOPE KNOWN - EPHESIANS 1:15-23 - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8, 2020 •

MAIN POINTS

Paul describes 3 things that truly knowing God reveals to us.

1. Hope is Known - When I know God, I know hope.
2. We are His Delight
3. His Power for Us

We make God knowable to the world around us by what people experience when they meet us.

Love compels us to spread hope in a hope-starved world.

Corrie Ten Boom - "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

CONNECTION AND INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What was the boldest thing you did in order to get to know your spouse or a person you have had a relationship with? Share a brief story with the group.

What are some specific things we do when we want to know other people better?

How many of you have struggled with growing in your relationship with God? What do you usually do when you don't feel like you are growing closer to Him?

Although no human being can know everything about God, our understanding of Him and His purposes always has room to grow. One of the many promises of God in Scripture is that He will give us the needed spiritual insight to understand more about Him.

ENGAGING AND UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23.

What difference does growing in our knowledge of God make in our daily lives?

What did Paul mean by “the eyes of your heart” (v. 18)? Why do our spiritual eyes need to be reopened occasionally?

The phrase eyes of your heart is found only here in the Bible. It’s a beautiful picture of a person’s inner self (or heart) having the ability to “see” ultimate reality. Natural light must strike our external eyes in order for us to see external realities. Likewise, the “eyes” of our inner self must be enlightened by God’s revelation in order that we may see ultimate reality.

For what three specific areas did Paul pray that the Ephesians’ wisdom would grow (vv. 18-19)? Why is each area important?

What are some specific ways we can expand our understanding of God’s hope, calling, riches, and power? What role does Bible study play in this process? What role does prayer play? What role does the Holy Spirit play?

As the apostle Paul petitioned God on behalf of the Ephesian Christians, he emphasized three areas in which their wisdom should grow. He stressed understanding God’s calling on their lives, God’s inheritance of them as believers, and the believers’ recognition of God’s power. Each of these areas help us better understand God’s plan for us and why our obedience to Him matters. Only through the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives can our wisdom in these areas grow.

Which of the things Paul prayed for in these verses could you use most in your life right now?

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian believers shows that God’s will is for all Christians to grow in spiritual insight. These verses mean that we can pray for ourselves (and for other believers) to grow in the spiritual wisdom we need to understand God’s plan and power better, which in turn makes us more obedient disciples.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

The Spirit desires to reveal to you more and more about Christ and about what in this life really matters and what really does not matter. Be sensitive and obedient to Him as He leads you daily to keep your focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. He provides you with all the wisdom you need to live as a mature Christian.

What role do you see the Holy Spirit playing in the life of a believer?

Where do you need the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit most in your life this coming week?

How do you think life would you change if our group prayed Ephesians 1:17-19 every week for each other?

What will you do differently in light of what we’ve read?

PRAYER

As you close in prayer, pray Ephesians 1:17-20 over your group. Pray that your group members would continue to grow in spiritual wisdom and would be more attentive to the Spirit’s work in their lives this week. Pray that your group members would have a renewed desire to study Scripture for the sake of growing closer to God this week.

*This guide was modified from a small group study created by Smallgroup.com