

Trans-form Notes
Ephesians 3:14-21

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

- ❖ Read, meditate on, and pray through Ephesians 3:14-21

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these statements or questions)

- ❖ Take some time to reflect and pray through this passage. Reflect on the extravagant and exuberant language Paul uses in his prayer.

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group or some friends)

- ❖ Why do we/you struggle with prayer so much? What do you need to make prayer more personal and intimate?
- ❖ The first thing that Paul asks for is that God would strengthen and empower them in their inner beings (v. 16). What resources does God have to do this? What does it mean to be strengthened in your inner being?
- ❖ What does it mean to approach God with freedom and confidence? How can these two characteristics change the prayer life of our community and us as individuals?!
- ❖ What are some of the characteristics of someone whom Jesus dwells?
- ❖ Why does Paul pray that they be rooted in love?
- ❖ vv. 18-19. Paul prays that we would know God's love. How does he describe it? What difference can a fuller understanding of God's love make in our lives? Be specific. Like, how we interact with others, how we view ourselves, how we manage our lives and finances, etc..
- ❖ Paul seems to be praying even when he didn't know he was praying. What does or could this look like in your everyday life? What makes prayer, prayer? How can our understanding of prayer lead to an integrated life and continual praying?
- ❖ vv. 19-20. Our poverty is nothing compared with God's abundance. What happens in you when you are more aware of your poverty than God's abundance? What happens to your praying? How can prayer help restore a good perspective?

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ Reflect on the fact that God is capable of doing more than you could imagine, going beyond what you could ever ask or think He might do. Pray this passage but personalizing it, putting yourself, our church body, and fellow Christians in by name.
- ❖ We are considering changing the words that represent our *transformation process*. The words are only important in helping us to articulate and practice things that help grow in maturity. *Restore, Love, and Serve* is our current language. Two passages that I believe are helpful are John 15:1-17 and Micah 6:8. Spend some time in prayer, meditation, and study as we begin to discern together the ways God is seeking to disciple us. Look for the things God does and look what he requires of us. Spend some moments each time you are gathered to pray and discuss this.

Resources

Wright, NT *Ephesians: 11 Studies for Individuals and Groups* IVP 2009
Peterson, Eugene *Practice Resurrection: Study Guide*. Eerdmans 2010