

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ice Breaker: As we have been experiencing the beauty of fall this year and northern lights, what scene or place do you find the most awe inspiring that just causes you to praise and give God glory?

OB- observation-what do you notice as you read through the verse-repeated words, , the grammar or structure of the sentence in the context of the other sentences.

INT- interpret- what does it mean by looking at the cross references, definition of words, what the original audience would have understood

APP- application- what do we learn about God, what do I need to change, confess, grow in my walk with the Lord through this passage.

First: Read through the whole passage and circle all the references to God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Then look at the "HE"s. Write above the "HE"s -is it referring to **God or to Jesus**. This will take some real thinking and reading carefully.

Second- underline all the you and your- referring to the people in Ephesus and surrounding churches.. THE CHURCH=we as believers... yes... us!!

Read Acts 20:17-38 – Paul's final word to the Ephesians the last time he saw them.

V15-OB What are the two reasons Paul is offering this thanksgiving and prayer? *(Paul had been away from this area for 4- 5 years and had been praying all this time. The church was growing in spite of all the persecution and situation)*

APP: Reflect on who their faith was in and their love was towards?

INT-How would these be a witness in this pagan culture? I John 4:7-8,20-21, John 13:34-35

APP- Would the outside world say this about our church? Can you give examples on how we (or you) show faith for Christ and love for fellow Christians. Does the world pay attention to this? (This can be a time of first just sharing general examples of how this is shown and then let's get personal and say how YOU do or might do this)
gotquestions.org/faith-in-Jesus.html

V16 INT- Who and why is Paul thanking ?

APP- Who are you rememberING- ongoing prayer for?

For most of us, praying for others tends to run along these lines: Lord, provide my friend with a job, a car that runs, good health, and safety. If we really know someone well, we might pray for his or her marriage or other relationships. There is nothing wrong with praying for these things; in fact, the Bible encourages us to pray for everything and, doing so, quell our anxieties (Philippians 4:6). It is right to pray for health and for good things to happen (3 John 1:2).

However, most of the prayers recorded in the Bible are of another type. When Jesus was praying for others, He prayed for their faith (Luke 22:32), He prayed against temptation in their lives (Luke 22:40), He prayed for their unity (John 17:11), and He prayed for their sanctification (John 17:17). Paul prayed for the salvation of the lost (Romans 10:1); he prayed that the brothers would stay on the right path (2 Corinthians 13:7); he prayed that believers would be strengthened by the Spirit, rooted and grounded in love, able to comprehend God's love, and filled with the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14–19). These are all prayers for *spiritual* blessings; they are all "in Jesus' name" and according to the Father's will—prayers that are guaranteed to find a "yes" in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). www.gotquestions.org/praying-for-others

V17-OB What is Paul praying for them and from Whom?

INT- Describe "Revelation" or see other translations

INT-How do we get the knowledge of "HIM"- God? John 14:6 John 17:3, Matt. 11:27

"The Almighty Sovereign Lord, the Creator of all wants us to know HIM" – meditate on that J I Packer

V18 and 19 - INT See other translations for "eyes of your hearts" (AMP) (to the Jews, the heart was the seat of thoughts and emotions)

INT-Describe enlightened? Who enlightens us? 2 Cor. 4:6

OB-What three things does Paul want us to know? Describe "KNOW"

a. _____ where did we get this and how does the Bible describe this word?

Hope here refers to the future promises of God for His people that cannot possibly fail. The biblical word for "hope" refers not to that which we desire would take place (but might not actually take place) but rather to those promises in the future that most certainly will take place. **That's why hope is called the anchor of the soul.** The anchor gives stability and permanence. In the midst of doubts, confusion, and changing circumstances, there's an anchor that keeps us secure and stable, and that anchor is hope. Hope is simply our trust in God's future promises. RC Sproul

APP- How can we show hope to others in this day and age? How does having this hope in God, comfort you?

b. _____ Col.1:27, Eph.1:13-14

Discussion on this that we are Christ's inheritance and we will receive an inheritance.

www.gotquestions.org/inheritance-in-Christ.html see print out

c. _____ Phil 3:21, Eph 6:10.

Whose great might?

APP- How can we live differently understanding the power we have IN CHRIST through God's power? Eph 3:20

V20 OB- What did God do to show His power? 1 Cor 15:3-9, Romans 1:4

OB Where is Christ now? Psa. 110:1, Acts 7:56, 1 Peter 3:22

V21 OB Who is being described here? (some discussion: power and dominion describes rank of spiritual beings)
Rev. 20:10-15

APP: Think about this? How does this change us knowing Christ's power and how can we exalt Him? glorify, extol, praise, acclaim, pay homage to, pay tribute to, revere, reverence, venerate, worship, esteem, hold in high regard, hold in high esteem, hold in awe, look up to, laud, magnify

V22 OB Who gave (appointed) Christ head of the church?

INT: What would be "all things"? Ps. 8:6, Hebrews 2:8

V23 OB/INT What is the church? Col 1:18, 1 Cor 12:27

INT How would you describe the "fullness of Him? John 1:16, Col 1:17

INT What do other translations say for "who fills all in all" Col 3:11, Jeremiah 23:23

Jeremiah 23:23-29 ²³ **Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the Lord. "No, I am far away at the same time. ²⁴ Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the Lord.**

APP How do you think about your life in Christ as our Head and as fellow believers chosen by God together to be the body of His Beloved Son who gave Himself for us. It truly is humbling and brings us to our knees in awe and deep gratitude. It gives such value to the importance of the church as we represent our Head- Jesus Christ!!

Col. 1:9-12

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.