

One: A Study in Ephesians
Small Group Discussion Resource
Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Read Ephesians 3:14-21 together, taking time to reflect on the prayer of Paul found in verses 14-19. What stands out to you about Paul's prayer?
2. Thinking back to your own childhood, what did you want to be when you grew up? Was there more than one thing? Was there anything totally ridiculous you wanted to be?
3. Thinking about the expectations you've had for your own life, how have they changed?
4. After having spent time in verses 14-19 reflecting on that prayer, re-read the doxology found in verses 20-21.
5. If you are a believer, have you considered that you have a ministry in the Kingdom? What have your expectations looked like in that regard? Have you even had any?
6. A doxology is a "statement of praise", and is often just a single sentence or two. If you were to consider something about God that has amazed you lately to the point of a statement of praise, what would your doxology look like?
7. Read the words and consider the heart behind the doxology of Thomas Ken, written in 1674:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

8. What are the things that in our society we are quick to praise? Why are those things so easy to heap glory on to? Why can it be so difficult, in contrast sometimes to praise God?

9. Re-read verse 21, then interact with this quote from Charles Spurgeon, where he discusses the role of the church in praising God.

“But the apostle felt that he must not say, ‘Unto him be glory in my soul.’ He wished that, but his one soul afforded far too little space, and so he cried ‘unto him, be glory in the church.’ He calls upon all the people of God to praise the divine name.”

10. When we consider the words “In Christ” in Paul’s doxology, how does Christ as the central focus of our lives, and our responsibility as the Church work itself out? What is our role as the Bride of Christ and His Church?
11. Many things in our lives are transient. They come and go. As a result it can be really hard to grapple with the eternity of God. Has there been anything that has helped you wrestle with that concept? How would you explain it to someone else?
12. If we believe that God is able to do immeasurably more through our Church and that He longs to do more, and more, and more. How does that encourage you? And what do you want to do about it? How can you get involved in that great and powerful move of God?
13. Pray about your expectations both in your life, in your ministry, and in your church. Pray about how you can step up today, but also prayers of praise and thanksgiving to our God that defies our greatest expectations.