

## The Essentials: Ephesians

### Session 2

#### Opening Collect

*Together:* Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Watch Video

**Read: Ephesians 1:15-23**

#### Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

1. As Caroline mentioned in the video, this is Paul's prayer for a community that he knew well. In your own words, what are the main requests?
2. Paul's language about knowing Jesus Christ is complex; it involves "a spirit of wisdom," "revelation," and "the eyes of your heart enlightened" (vv.17 and 18). This is a different kind of knowing than simply remembering facts. What does this suggest about what it should be like to "know" Jesus?
3. Paul prays that we might know what our ultimate hope is (v. 18). Why is it important to know what our future is as Christians?
4. Paul elaborates extensively on the topic of God's power. God's power was in Christ when he raised him from the dead (v. 19) and when he placed him above every name, rule, and authority—forever (v. 21)! Our reading says this power is also "for us" (v. 19). How might that change the way you perceive your own struggles and afflictions?
5. The church is a community unlike any other community; it is the body of Christ (vv. 22 and 23). What does it mean to belong to a community that is Christ's presence in the world?
6. Is there something in this passage that you sense God intends just for you to hear?

#### Closing Prayer

Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love<sup>[e]</sup> toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God<sup>[f]</sup> put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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