

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

**Series:** Anchored, a study in Ephesians

**Passage:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Focus:** This week we study a prayer, and so I would encourage you to lead your group through a time of prayer beyond just general requests. Plan to model a prayer time after Paul's prayer if possible.

### **READ: Ephesians 1:15-23**

- Based on Ephesians 1:15-16, why does Paul give thanks for those he is writing to? What about their faith is praiseworthy? Who is someone you know who has faith that inspires you? What examples from their life can you share? Have you told them? What are a few practical ways as a group this year ahead we can celebrate the faith we see in each other?
- Look at Ephesians 1:17, What stands out to you that is included and excluded from this verse? Why is this encouraging? Why might it be frustrating if we are honest? How would "knowing Jesus better" actually be one of the best answered prayers we could receive?
- Focusing on Ephesians 1:18-19a. Paul prays that the "eyes of our hearts" are opened. If the metaphor is made more plain, what do "closed eyes" look like in our daily life today? What would "open eyes" be experienced as today? What do you see in the passage that helps answer those questions?
- Look at Ephesians 1:19b-23. What do we learn about God's power? Why is a prayer that contains us naming how God is powerful important? If you were to pray and use a demonstration of God's power, what comes to mind?
- During the sermon, it was said that *being overwhelmed is an invitation to know Jesus in ways you never have before*. Do you agree? Why might those moments of desperation be unique in our walk with Christ?
- **Leaders' Note:** Here are a few options of how you might close in prayer since this passage is largely a prayer:
  - **Option:** have everyone write on 3x5 cards as many words, phrases or examples of God's power to prepare to then share them in prayer.
  - **Option:** have a few people share prayer requests of situations in their lives. Then, when it is time to pray, ask for people to pray that those situations would be places those people "know Jesus better" and "experience the power of God" regardless of outcome just like our passage illustrates.
  - **Option:** come up with any other number of ways to pray as the scripture models or inspires you to take action. Move from "a study" to "a practice" as you disciple your group.