



## STUDY GUIDE 2

### EPHESIANS 1:15-23

#### A Prayer of Intercession

This is a 2 part prayer: Thanksgiving verses 15 & 16 and Request for Enlightenment verses 17-23

#### DAY 1

Read the paragraph 3 times.

1. Paul leads into this section with a phrase “For this reason” OR “Wherefore”. In the RSV Bible the phrase “for this reason” is later in the sentence. The prayer springs directly from Paul’s vision of the spiritual blessings given to us in verses 3-14.
2. In verse 15 – What are 2 characteristics of these Christians?
3. In verse 16 – What are 2 ways Paul gives thanks for them?

To Dig Deeper: One way a Study Bible helps us to understand what we are reading is with Footnotes. Read the footnote for verse 15 – note the 2 possibilities why Paul wrote “ever since I heard” (If you do not have an NIV Study Bible, this footnote is in the Leader’s Guide for this lesson.)

#### DAY 2

Note the change in the tense of the verbs in verses 16-18 “have not stopped giving” or “do not cease” or “cease not”, “remembering” or “making mention”, “keep asking” or “constantly asking”, “pray also” or “pray”. This indicates a present and ongoing action.

1. In verse 17 What 2 things does Paul keep asking God to give these Christians?
2. Why does he want them to have these 2 things?

FOR REFLECTION: These people are already in a relationship with God. Paul wants it to deepen into a more full knowing of God.

How do you get to know another person?

How do you get to know God:

Do you really know God or do you just know about Him?

### DAY 3

1. In verse 18 what else does Paul ask for these Christians?
2. Using your footnotes in your NIV study Bible define “the eyes of your heart”. NIV footnote says: “eyes of your heart – your mind or understanding or inner awareness.”
3. In verses 18 & 19 What 3 things does Paul want them to know?

To Dig Deeper: Read Ephesians chapters 1-3. Mark the word “rich” or “riches”.

Who is rich?

How are the riches described?

What is to be done with the riches?

(A lot of times you are asked to mark a word or phrase. This can be done by underline, brackets, parentheses, using different colored pens or shading with colored pencils. Some people prefer not to mark their Bibles. Instead, you can just write down the verses where the word or phrase is found.)

### DAY 4

1. In verse 19 Paul talks about God’s power – what is that power like? See also Philippians 3:10.
2. In verse 20 What 2 events in the life of Christ does Paul use to demonstrate what he means by power?
3. According to verse 19 and the footnotes in the NIV Study Bible who is this power working in? The NIV footnote says for vrs. 19: “In this verse Paul piles term upon term to emphasize that the extraordinary divine force by which Jesus Christ was raised (v.20) is the same power at work in and through believers.”

TO DIG DEEPER: Read the book of Ephesians and mark the word “power” or “strength”. Describe this power: From where does it come?

Who has it?

What are they to do with it?

## DAY 5

1. In verse 21 What is Jesus position in regards to heaven and earth?

What statement tells us this position is permanent?

2. In verse 22 What is included in the authority of this position?

3. In verse 23 What is the church?

How is it the fullness of Christ? (see NIV Study Bible footnote which says: "fullness . . .fills. The church is the fullness of Christ probably in the sense that it is filled by him who fills all things.")

The image of body shows the church's unity – each member is involved with all other members in doing Christ's work on earth.

TO DIG DEEPER: Read the book of Ephesians and mark the work "body" or "church" Note what is said about it: Who it is, what it does, from where does it get it's directions, how is it to do what it is supposed to do?

## DAY 6

Not only do we have riches and power in Christ, but we belong to the one who has all riches and power given to Him.

Paul's prayers reveal how to pray more effectively for other Christians. From Ephesians 1:15-23 What can I pray for other Christians? Who will I pray for?