

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: *Lord, teach us to pray*

Sermon Title: Pray for others – Paul’s way
Passage: Eph. 1:15-21; 3:14-21; Phi. 1:3-11; Col. 1:9-14

Date: March 22, 2009
Message # 12

Think about it

- What causes you to pray for other people?
- What do you tend to pray for, when you for other people?
- What are people’s greatest needs?

Examine it

Ephesians 1:15-21

- What did Paul ask God to give the Ephesians? (17) Why?
- What else did Paul pray for? (18a) Why – what 3 things was Paul praying they would know? (18b-19)

Ephesians 3:14-21

- What did Paul ask God to do for the Ephesians? (16) Why? (17a)
- What else did Paul pray for them? (17b-19)
- How could this be possible? (20-21)

Philippians 1:3-11

- How does Paul describe his prayer commitment to/for the Philippians? (3-5)
- What was Paul confident that God would do? (6)
- What was Paul’s relationship with the Philippians like? (7-8)
- What did he pray for them? (9)
- Why? What was he hoping for them? (10-11)

Colossians 1:9-14

- What was Paul praying for the Colossians? (9)
- Why was he praying that? (10)
- How does Paul describe a life that “pleases God in every way”? (10b-12)
- Why does Paul say a believer be thankful to God? (12-14)

Discuss it

- What strikes you about the way Paul prays for his readers?
- What are some themes or common things Paul prays for in these three letters?
- How does Paul’s praying compare with the way we tend to pray for others?
- What can we learn from Paul’s example of praying for others?

Live it out

- How can you model your prayers for others after Paul’s prayers?
- What 3 things would be good for you to pray for other believers you pray for?
- How can you be consistent in praying for them in that way?
- How would you like others to pray for you?

(Take some time right now to pray for one another – silently or openly – about these very things.)

What does this study prompt you to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Next week’s passage(s): Psalm 25:4-5; 139:23-24; 19:14; Daniel 2:20-22; 1 Chronicles 29:10-13