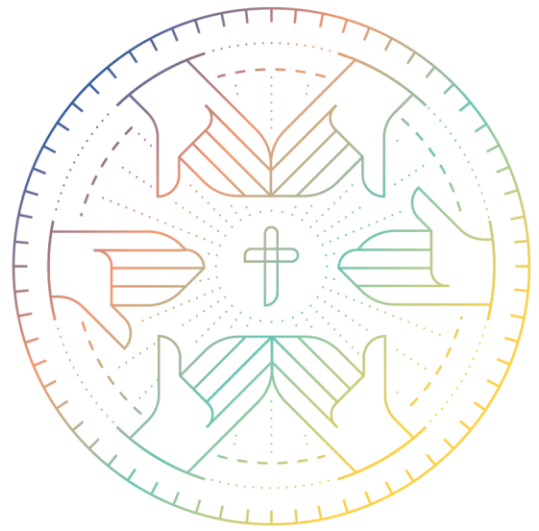


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

The Bible project intro to Ephesians is a great resource to help your group see the big picture as well as some of the overarching themes we will be seeing this series. Watch it together with your group at the beginning or email it out for them to watch on their own time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

Make sure to take attendance via the attendance reminder email or if you are a new group that has not yet registered, please register your group using the link below by adding the day, time, and current group members. <https://login.fairhaven.church/registration/2022SpringSmallGroupOpNewGroups>

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

If you could time travel, would you go back in time to meet your ancestors, or forward in time to meet your descendants?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

In verses 15 through 23, we see Paul shift from praising the faith of the Ephesians to praying for their continued enlightenment to an acknowledgment of the authority and power found in Christ from God. As we continue to read through Ephesians, be on the lookout for the tension between seeing Paul's audience as faithful, and the instruction and growth he is calling them into.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

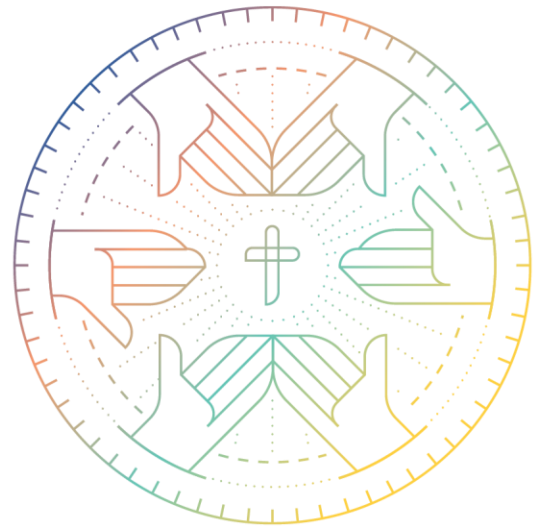
1. Paul mentions that he had heard of Ephesian's faith in the Lord Jesus and their love toward all the saints. Read John 13:35 and 1 John 4:19-21. How do the accompanying passages help us understand what set them apart?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Love for other believers is evidence of saving faith. In John 13, Jesus says all people will know we are disciples because of the love we have for one another. In 1 John, we see that our understanding of love was only because we were loved first. John goes on to say that to love God, we must love each other. The Ephesians displayed this love to such a degree that word got back to Paul.]

Group Life.

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2. **Paul asks for three things to be given to the Ephesians by the “Spirit of Wisdom”, revelation in the knowledge of him (verse 17), for the eyes of your heart to be enlightened (verse 18), and to know what the hope to which he has called you (Verse 18). Of these three things which one stands out to you? Why?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[This is a great opportunity to ask follow-up questions. Ask questions like: Why did you choose that one? What about it stuck out to you? Can you tell me more?]

3. **Read Ephesians 4:10-12. With that passage in context, look back to Ephesians 1:23 Paul. Here refers to the church as his body and says that God wants to fill us with His fullness, what then is our part in that process?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[The Greek word fullness means to be filled with the presence, power, agency, riches of God and Christ. With that context, in Christ, we receive all that we need to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. But note that this is only possible by being filled with His (Christ) fullness. See Ephesians 4:10]

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

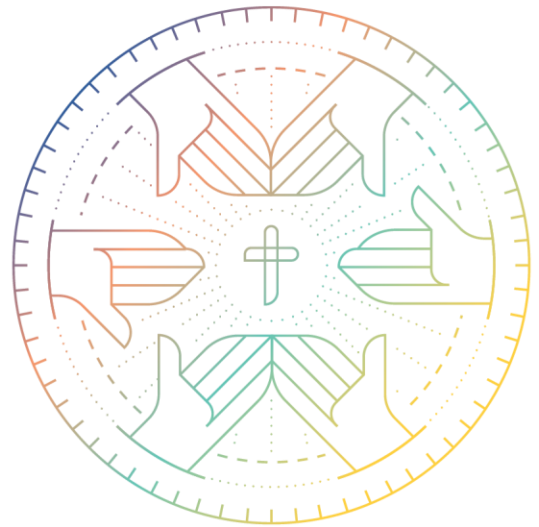
1. **In Ephesians 1:15, Paul gives thanks for the Ephesians because their faith and love were so evident. What would it look like for our church, small group, and each of us as individuals to display that?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Faith = active trust in what God has done and life lived in participation in, response to, and reflection of what God has done. Faith should be followed by action. Cross-reference: Philemon 1:5; Romans 1:8]

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



2. Read James 1:22-25. In Ephesians 1:17, Paul prays for revelation in the knowledge of him. After reading James 1, how does that change the way you view Paul's prayer, and how does that change how we should be praying?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[True knowledge leads to action. James 1 reminds us as believers that having head knowledge with no action is worthless. When Paul prays for revelation in the knowledge of him, he is praying for the truth that will lead to life transformation.]

3. After spending time in the chapter, how have you seen the Spirit of Wisdom reveal a deeper understanding of the knowledge of Him (Jesus) so far during our study on Ephesians?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary but make sure to give every person an opportunity to share. Be careful to listen to the words they use. This is a great opportunity for encouragement.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, help us to have true knowledge of you. May our hearts be enlightened and may we find rest in a deeper understanding of the inheritance we have through Jesus Christ. Thank you, Jesus, for coming and dying for our sins. We celebrate your resurrection from the dead and that you are seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places. Thank you that we know you are in control in the midst of a chaotic world. Jesus, you are far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named. May we find rest and walk in this knowledge this week, amen.