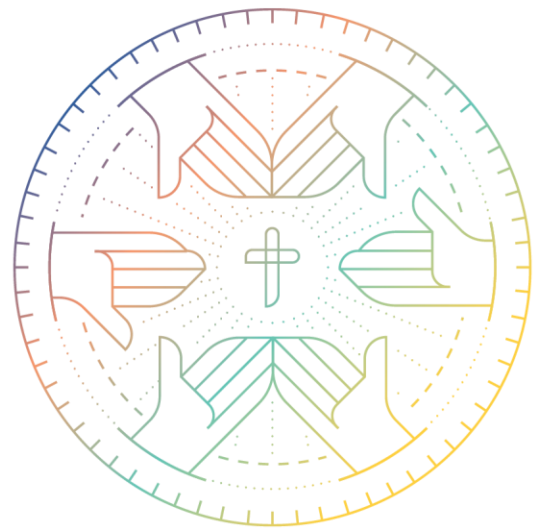


Group Life.

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MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

We want to remind you that Easter will be a standalone message. If your group wishes to meet, we will have a small group guide to go along with the Easter message. Our Ephesians series will pick back up on April 24th.

Additionally, make sure to pick up your group's Ephesians devotionals that cover chapters 4-6 at your campus's Group Life station.

Finally, don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Do you or your family have any Easter traditions?

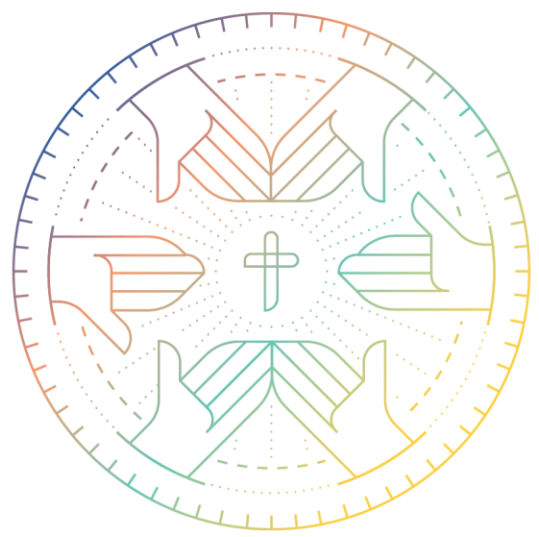
INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Paul ends the first three chapters of Ephesians with a prayer. This prayer is a continuation of the first verse in chapter 3. His prayer here is also a continuation of chapter 1 where Paul declared that he did not cease to remember them in his prayers. His main aim here is for the Ephesians to be renewed and to understand on a deeper level the love that God has for them.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

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1. **Read Ephesians 3:14 -16. Paul prays that the Ephesians would be strengthened in their “inner being”. What do you think it means to be “strengthened in your inner being”? According to Paul how are the Ephesians strengthened and do you think it is important?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[The "inner being" is the spiritual part of a person. Paul is speaking about the desire to be spiritually renewed. Paul mentions his "inner being" in Romans 7:22, saying he delights in the law of God in his inner being, or his mind (Romans 7:23). Paul makes the point to denote that we are strengthened through the Holy Spirit. This continues Paul's point of where we derive everything from God, not from ourselves. This theme is echoed throughout the first 3 chapters of Ephesians.]

2. **Read Ephesians 3:17, Colossians 2:6-7, and Matthew 7:24-27. After reading these passages what do you think Paul is talking about when he mentions “being rooted and grounded in love”?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Rooted means to render firm, to fix, establish, or cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded. Grounded means to make stable or to establish. The passage in Ephesians contains two metaphors: biology and architecture. The Christian is rooted like a tall tree and established like a towering building. The idea is that the believer becomes established and mature by love. This love is not some earthly relationship but is the result of being strengthened by the Holy Spirit.]

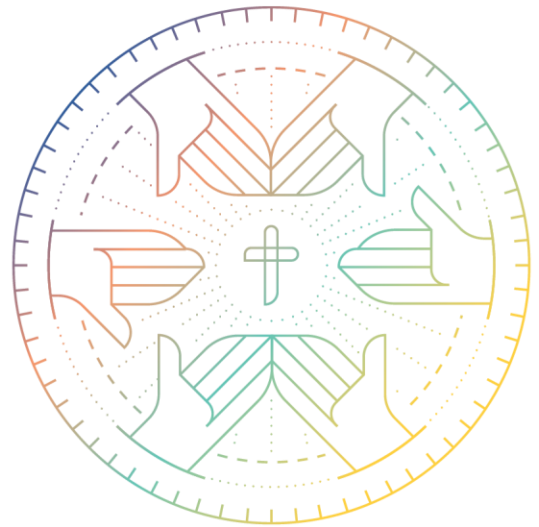
3. **Paul prays for three specific things:**
 - **For God to strengthen our lives with His power (3:16)**
 - **For Christ to reign in every area of life (3:17a)**
 - **For God to show us the extent of His love (3:17b-19).****Of these prayers which one resonated with you the most? Why?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. This is a great opportunity to follow up with clarifying questions. ex.) Why did you choose that prayer?]

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Ephesians 3:18-19. Paul lists four dimensions of God's love: Breadth, Length, Height, and Depth. Of those which one sticks out to you the most? Why?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Breadth refers to the freedom we get to experience from God, Length refers to the frequency in which we are able to access His love, Height refers to the force with which we can feel his presence and Depth refers to a bedrock on which our foundation can be built.]

2. **Read Isaiah 53:2-6 and Ephesians 3:18-19. As we reflect on Christ's sacrifice this Easter season what sticks out to you from Isaiah 53. How can that give us a better picture of what Paul is explaining about God's love?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (53:3), borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, (53:4), he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed, his chastisement brought us peace, and with his wounds, we are healed. (53:5), Lord has laid on him the punishment of us all.]

3. **Read Ephesians 3:20-21. If we believed God is truly able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, how would that impact your thoughts and prayers this week?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. It can lead us to view the situations we are currently facing or experiencing from the perspective that God has a desire for more. Can lead us to boldness and peace.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, we pray that you would grant us the riches of your glory, that we would be strengthened through your Holy Spirit in our inner being. Jesus, please dwell in our hearts that we may be rooted in your love. This week help us to better understand the breadth and length and height and depth of your love for us. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.