

## Study Guide #1 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of September 10, 2017

Title of Scripture Passage: Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

A theme that will be emphasized in this week's bible study passage is the key concept that God dwells within the hearts of believers through his Holy Spirit. In other words, Christ literally makes his home within a believer's heart and through that relationship the believer can receive God's strength and power and thus experience God's love which will result in spiritual growth and blessing.

### Ephesians 3:14–21 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- Explain that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So, each week, all of us will read and reflect over the bible study and come to K-group prepared to interact and participate in the discussion. Also, each week, one of you will be assigned the task of sharing the scripture in story form, without notes and without your bible being opened. Your K-group members need to be ready and prepared to prompt you should you stumble and need help. So, this will be a great learning experience for all involved.
- For tonight's lesson, one of our K-group leader's will verbalize the scripture passage in story format (again, without notes and without bible being opened). So, let's give our undivided attention to \_\_\_\_\_ as they verbalize the bible study passage.

### Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Ephesians 3:14-21. (Ask the K-group to note anything that was added or deleted? The reason for question is that we must clarify the facts before discussing the text while affirming the bible story teller for what he/she did well)
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask, as \_\_\_\_\_ shared the story about this scripture, "which part of Paul's prayer resonated with you the most and why?"

- From the context, what can we learn about Paul’s circumstances? How was Paul responding to his circumstances?
- In the passage, how is God described and what is his role?
- What is our role as believers?
- The passage began with “for this reason,” what reason do you think Paul is referring to? (Teacher’s Note: Paul uses the same phrase in 3:1 and then appears to go off on a minor tangent about his personal experience with the gospel and his current suffering. In short, he is reassuring the Ephesians that God is bringing good things from his difficulties and that they need not worry about him. The “reason” that Paul seems to be referring to in 3:14 and 3:1 is given at the end of chapter 2 (see 2:19-22). The reason given is that the Ephesians (and us too) are heavenly citizens, members of God’s household, and a Holy Temple built upon the cornerstone of Christ. In short, we become “a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”) (see Eph. 2:22).

Now, we are going to read a short booklet that illustrates what this truth. It was written by Robert Munger and is called “My Heart, Christ’s Home.”

Pass out booklets – K-group members will need to share them as we will likely only have enough for every other person. Personally read the Intro (1<sup>st</sup> section) and then have different K-group members read about the different rooms in the home.

#### Questions Continued

- As you reflect on your heart actually being Christ’s home, what room/insight spoke to you? (take the time to allow several K-group member’s to answer)
- The booklet pointed out that there is a big difference between Christ living with you as an honored guest and Christ living with you as the master of the house. What are some practical steps that we can take to make the latter our reality?
- Ultimately, what do we learn from this little booklet, and more importantly, from our bible passage?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and our discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.