



HANDOUT

Lesson 2: Ephesians 1:15–23

THE BOOK OF

EPHESIANS

DISCUSS

He summarized Paul's prayer in four parts. What four things did Paul want the Ephesians to see?

What specific actions have happened, or are happening—just in Ephesians 1:15–16? Can you put them in order?

How does viewing Paul's prayer as a story change the way you look at it? How could prayer-as-story affect the way you pray?

What does Paul mean in Ephesians 1:17? How do we "know God"?

How does God's Spirit make us know God?

How would you define hope?

How is "the hope to which He has called you" different from hoping that your team wins the big game or hoping you get a raise?

What's the best thing you can do for someone else to help them have this kind of hope?

Are there times when you feel that you aren't loved by God? Why or why not? Do you think other people feel that way, too? Why or why not?

How can verse 18 change your mind about hope?

In verses 19–20, we find the next main point of Paul's prayer. What is it?

How does Paul describe God's power?

Think of that part of your life that needs a touch of God's power. Your attitude? Your health? Your struggle with temptation? Your relationships? How could God use His resurrection power to transform that?

Is there one phrase that stands out for you in verses 20-23? What does that mean to you?

LIVE IT OUT

Prayer: At least four days in the coming week, pray for other Christians you know, using Paul's prayer as a model.

Encouragement: Do you know someone who is losing hope? What could you say to them, inspired by this passage, to open their eyes to God's love and power? Find a way to say that this week.

Resolve: Is there a struggle in your life where you need to rely on God's power? Temptation? Attitude? A thorny relationship? Is there some difficult thing you need to do—saying "no," saying "yes," or saying "sorry"? Review Paul's prayer, ask for God's guidance, and act in God's power.

Memorize: Commit verses Ephesians 1:17–23 to memory (so you can use it as a model for your own prayers forever). Alternatively, write out 5-7 "bullet points" from the prayer and memorize those. Check yourself by reading through the whole prayer each day. (And you might just find that you've learned the whole thing anyway.)

Gather: Talk with a few friends about getting together this week for a prayer time, based on this passage, in which you specifically pray for the spiritual vitality of your church or your community.