

Deeper Connections: A Study of Ephesians

Liturgy for Groups

Introduction

The Apostle Paul prays in Ephesians that his friends would be given *“the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that they may know God better.”* This prayer reflects that there is always a deeper relational connection we can have with God. In other words, there’s always “more.” This “more” is not just limited to life with God, it’s also possible to have a deeper connection with one another and our neighbors. This theme of “deeper connections” is seen throughout the book of Ephesians. And through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to go deeper as well.

Centering Time (5ish minutes)

- Individually: Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Repeat a word or phrase, such as Ephesians 1:3: *“I have been given every spiritual blessing in Christ...”*
- Corporately: Light a candle and pray together from Ephesians 1:17, *“Lord, give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know you better.”*

Opening and Closing Question (for the week of 9/10 and then again for the week of 11/5).

- What would it look like for your group to grow deeper with God and one another?
- Take time for everyone to answer.

Reflecting on Text and Sermon (35ish minutes)

- Read the text from Ephesians used in the sermon (then sit in silence for 30 seconds). Is there a word or phrase that sticks out to you? Consider why.
- What were your takeaways from the sermon and/or from hearing the text read again?
- How does the theme of “deeper connections” link to these verses? In other words, what or where is there an invitation to a deeper connection?
- Consider what prevents you from going deeper (with God, one another, or with a neighbor).
- Based on these verses, is there a spiritual practice that could help you take a step deeper in your connection with God, with one another, or with a neighbor? If so, what would it be? Are you willing to try that practice this week?

Praying for One Another (20ish minutes)

Paul’s deep connection with Jesus and the affection he has for his friends is incredibly apparent in his letter. A few times in Ephesians, Paul spontaneously breaks out in prayer for his friends that they would experience the same deep connection he has with Jesus (Ephesians 3:16-19). Therefore, be open to spontaneously praying for one another. These prayer moments could be inspired by:

- General requests and/or listening prayer for each other
- An insight from the scripture text
- Something happening in the neighborhood, city, world

Benediction - from Ephesians 3:20-21 (say together): *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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*