

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF JUNE 8, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Experiencing the Fullness of God

"The best praying man is the man who is most believingly familiar with the promises of God. After all, prayer is nothing but taking God's promises to Him and saying, "Do as You have said." Prayer is the promise utilized. Prayer not based on a promise has no true foundation."

–C.H. Spurgeon

"...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..."

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:6-7, 11-13

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 3:14-21

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

1 Cor 16:19; 2 Cor 9:8; Col 1, 2:71; Phil 4:7-13; Rom 7:22, 8:39, 11:36; Ps 119, 139

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - Paul's posture before God
 - God's relationship to the whole of humanity
 - The "why" and "how" of God giving strength to people
 - The necessary precondition of people in order to fully understand the love of God
 - The mind's involvement in knowing God
 - The result of comprehending the love of God
 - The efficacy of God's working
 - The means by which God does more "than all that we ask or think"
 - The scope of God's intention to glorify himself

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- What aspect of Jesus' life or character most clearly demonstrates to you being "filled with the fullness of God"?
- To what extent are you availing yourself of the infinite capacity of God's love to give you sustained satisfaction? What does it look like to move more deeply into that?
- Do you *desire* the "fullness of God"? Do you *desire* to experience "self" decrease (John 3:30)?
- What is your current motivation for reading the Bible? How would you state your goal? Does it feel like obligation, or invitation?
- Are your requests and dreams big enough that if God did more than you "asked or imagined" it would necessarily be something surpassingly wonderful? Or are your dreams small and requests infrequent so that the promise in verse 20 isn't very meaningful in your life?

"Life consists in penetrating the unknown, and fashioning our actions in accord with the new knowledge thus acquired."

- Leo Tolstoy

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 3:10-11

This Week: Eph 3:20-21

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (June):

Apostles Church wants to be a people devoted to prayer. We will pray as Jesus taught us, seeking God's presence, power and favor to accomplish His purpose.

In Response to the Text:

- To be strengthened in our inner being
- That we would be rooted and grounded in love
- That all the saints would comprehend the immeasurable love of God shown in Christ
- That in the church Christ would be greatly exalted; that his Gospel would be made much of
- For our children – that they would grasp God's goodness and glory and that our parents would clearly communicate and model those things
- For the end of our generational sin patterns
- For a greater *desire* and *inclination* toward the word of God and the fullness of experiencing him

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*– John Piper
- *The Radical Reformation* – Mark Driscoll
- *The Pursuit of God*– A.W. Tozer
- *Complete Works on Prayer* – E.M. Bounds

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 4:1-6