We Are Empowered

SERIES BIG IDEA
Working through the book of Ephesians, we will discover where we are, and our next step on our PATHWAY with Jesus.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA
We are empowered to make God known as we embrace and extend God’s love.

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What was your most loved toy, pet, or person that you had as a child? Why did you love this thing or person so much? How did this thing or person show you love in return?

EMBRACING AND EXTENDING GOD’S LOVE
The simple truth of God’s love changed Paul’s entire world. In Jesus Christ, Paul realized that anyone could be brought into relationship with God and everyone is invited on this crazy mission to help others encounter Jesus. Paul himself experienced this profound change when he embraced God’s love and forgiveness and then began to extend it to others.

Ephesians 3:6-7 - And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

2. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions do you have?

3. Why do you think it is significant that both Gentiles and Jews get to share in being part of God’s family?

Paul had an incredibly large vision for his life – the privilege of serving him [God] by spreading this good news.

4. If someone were to observe your life, what would they say is your life’s mission based on how you spend your time, money and mental energy?

Many of us have a hard time seeing how our lives are connected to what God is doing on this earth. But what if God really is inviting us to be part of extending his love to others?

5. Imagine that tomorrow you get a visit from God himself telling you that He has given you permission, strength, wisdom and power to not only experience His amazing love for yourself, but to make his love known to others. First of all, how would you feel? And second how would this change your day?

Ephesians 3:10-11 God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. Put the above verses into your own words.
Small Group Discussion Guide
PATHWAY

The Church (the collection of Christ Followers in our communities) is designed to display God’s wisdom because we are a group of diverse people all united by the love of God. As many of us have personally experienced, the church doesn’t always live up to this mission. But, God is still using the Church today and we have a part to play.

7. How could we model reconciliation and love in our hearts, our marriages, our families, this group, this church? How would we need to trust God and his Spirit to do this?

MICRO GROUP
Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Micro groups should be same sex – all men or all women. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

8. What sticks out to you about Paul’s prayer?

9. Do you really believe that God loves you? How do you regularly experience that God loves you? How do you wish or hope that you could experience more of God’s love? How would truly knowing and experiencing that God loves you, change you?

H2O – Habits to Outcome
Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, accountability, journaling, and serving) lead to the outcomes of Character Transformation* and Calling Activation*. In this series we will focus on the habit of Bible engagement as we read through the Book of Ephesians together.

Last week we read through Ephesians 2 and journaled something God was saying to us.

10. Share one verse or thought that stuck out to you from your reading. What is God saying to you? What is God asking you to do?

11. Share a next step you have chosen to take on Pathway

This week we will:
Read Ephesians 3 and journal these two questions: What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

Check out PATHWAY (pathway.restorecc.org). Take action on the next step you have chosen.

Pray Ephesians 3:14-21 for yourself this week and for the others in your micro group.

Close your micro group by praying for each other.

*Character Transformation means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

*Calling Activation means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)