

**PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE**

**LESSON 23 EPHESIANS 1:15-23; 3:14-21**

1. As we studied and mediated on **Jesus’s last prayer**, how has His final prayer influenced your prayers this week?

**PAUL – PRAYERS FOR OTHER BELIEVERS**

Paul was once a self-righteous persecutor of Christians. He came to know God and was the first missionary, establishing churches through-out Europe (see **Ephesians 1:1 & 3:7**).

2. Ask God to help you understand the heart of Paul’s prayers. Slowly read **Ephesians 1:15-23** and **3:14-21** and listen for the focus and themes. Consider who the Lord might be prompting you to pray for in this way and record their names.

3. **1:15** opens with “for this reason”. In your own words, give a summary of Paul’s reasons for praying (see **V13-14**).

4. When does Paul pray in this way and how does that inspire you? (**V15-16**)

5. Slowly read **1:17**. What does Paul keep asking God to provide for the Ephesians, and for what purpose? Why would it be important to the Ephesians, to you, and to your loved ones to pray like this?

6. a) Read **1:18-19a** and comment on what you think it means to “open the eyes of your heart?”

b) Paul prays for three specific things that they would “see” – what are they?

7. In **1:19b-23,** Paul expands on and describes “this incomparably great power”. What attributes of God stand out to you and what phrases in these verses point to those attributes?

8. After much rich teaching in chapters 2 and 3, Paul is prompted to pray again for the Ephesians starting in **3:14**. What warms your heart from **V14–17a**? What convicts you?

9. From **17b–19,** put in your own words what it means to be “rooted and established in love”, and identify Paul’s ultimate goal in this prayer.

10. Paul closes his second prayer for the Ephesians with an amazing benediction in **V20-21**. What do you love about this benediction? Memorize the phrases that you love so you can weave them into your prayer life and share them with your group.

11. **HEART REFLECTION**

Let **Psalm 68:35** inspire you as you meditate on it. **“You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!”**

What difference would it make in your prayer life to pray like Paul for your loved ones?

Write your prayer here and consider sharing your prayer with them.

**NAME PRAYER REQUEST**