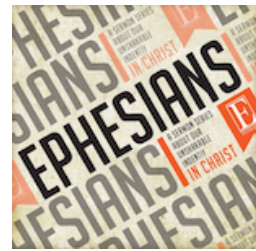


COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 5/28-29/13

"EPHESIANS: HEARD" - EKKLESIA



SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:14-21 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

BIG IDEA

Because of Jesus, Christians have a loving Father who enjoys hearing from them in prayer. When we pray, we are simply talking to our Father. Prayer can be silent or aloud, in secret or on the go. God always answers prayer with: yes, no, or later. Prayer can cause God to act, but oftentimes prayer is to change us. From Paul's prayer for his church, we learn that in order to live out our identity in Christ, we need the Father's riches, the Spirit's strength, Jesus' life, and we need to be able to grasp with all of the church how wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Jesus. When we pray, we can pray confidently and hopefully because we know that God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q.1 Was there anything from *Sunday's Sermon* or the *Big Idea* that had an affect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?

Q.2 What stands out to you in **Ephesians 3:14-21** and why?

Q.3 Discuss any of these that stand out to you, encourage you, or are still unclear to you.

- 1) Prayer is simply talking to your loving Father (aloud, in your head, journaling, singing, etc.)
- 2) Pray on the go and in secret (Paul says to pray without ceasing, and Jesus told us to get alone and spend time in secret prayer)
- 3) Your Father hears and answers (He either answers yes, no, or later)
- 4) Prayer causes things to happen (see James 4:2-3)
- 5) Prayer doesn't change God, prayer changes us

****Spend time praying individually for each other to be able to really grab hold of (appropriate, taste) the love of Jesus in all of it's vastness. Like Paul prays for us, that we "may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19).**

****Spend time praying for each other personally. Don't be afraid to prayer big prayers. Don't neglect praying for each other's heart, not simply for their circumstances.**

GOOD WORD

At the end of every prayer that we have ever prayed, God our Father is always saying, "I can do more than that." We pray to the God of the heavens and the earth. He owns everything, rules everything, and controls everything. This same God that can do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think has adopted us into his family. He loves us. "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever" (Ephesians 3:20-21). Joy to us, glory to Jesus! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EKKLESIA COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

We have opened up the door for people to become Covenant Members of Ekklesia Muskogee. We invite you to get a copy of the [Ekklesia Membership Covenant](#) and the [Ekklesia Doctrinal Statement](#), read and pray over them, then arrange a meeting with a Pastor to discuss, pray, and sign the Covenant together.