

Say Yes to God: Growing Deeper in God's Grace
"Real Power"
Ephesians 1:15-23

THE BIG IDEA:

God has created the church to experience a new kind of power: God's power that raised Jesus from the dead, which gives us new spiritual vision, leads us to hope in God, and guides us to serve the world around us. Take some to read and discover Paul's prayer for the Ephesians to experience this power.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED

1. If you could have any super-hero power, which would you choose? Why?

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Together, read Ephesians 1:15-23

2. Take a moment to re-tell in your own words Greg's message from Sunday.
3. What do you think of when you hear the word "power"? What about when you hear "God's power"?
4. Describe what you think Paul means in verse 18 to have "the eyes of your heart enlightened"? To what end does he hope that our hearts are enlightened? What is the "inheritance" that Paul is pointing to? How is this a source of power?
5. Verse 19 is a key verse in this passage. What synonyms does Paul use in this verse to describe the power he wants the Ephesians to experience?
6. Describe the power Paul longs for us to experience in verses 20-21. What is its source? What is the breadth and depth of this power? What do you think about this power?
7. When you feel weak and powerless, how do you most often find strength? (Quiet and solitude, prayer, serving, fellowship, etc.?) How do you especially find strength with other brothers and sisters in Christ?
8. Listen to Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of verse 22 from *The Message*:
"At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church."
God has empowered the church! How is the church's mission central to what God is doing to the world? How is it central to God's work in Chico?

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LIVING OUT "REAL LIFE"

9. When and how have you experienced God's power in your life? In the church? Have you ever been disappointed when you sought God's power in your life?

THE EXTRA MILE

10. Who are some people who need to find God's hope and power in their lives this week? How could you help them experience God's power?

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God's hope and the power of the Resurrection through one another. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another needs. There you find the power of God.

WORDS OF COMFORT

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. -Isaiah 30:15