

## Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone and share about a person for whom you are thankful, also share any challenges that you faced this past week?
2. Church Life- Women of Hope Feb 16<sup>th</sup> ; Baptism- Feb 17<sup>th</sup>; College/Young Adult Event Feb 24<sup>th</sup>
3. What insights did you gain from the sermon and our passage in Ephesians 1:15-23? What specifically encouraged or challenged you from this week's sermon?

## Listening

*Exploring God's Word*

### **Read & Re-tell**

**Read:** Ephesians 1:15-23

Read: Have one person read the entire passage all the way through.

Avoid having each person read one verse, which is highly distracting and promotes inattention

**Re-read:** Ephesians 1:15-23

Re-read: Have a second person reread the passage all the way through using a different translation.

**Re-tell:** Ephesians 1:15-23

Re-tell: Have someone re-tell the entire story/content of the passage.

The Re-teller should feel NO pressure to memorize or capture everything because the group will help by adding details during the "review" time. Be sure that the Re-teller does NOT interpret, but simply tells the essence of the narrative/theme/parable. Experienced Christians have the greatest difficulty retelling as they tend to go into unnecessary depth, encourage them to stick to the basic meaning of the text and keep it simple.

**Review:** Ephesians 1:15-23

As a group together fill in any missing or important details which might have been missed in the re-telling.

After the retelling, ask the group if anyone has anything to add to the retelling, or if anyone saw something different in the passage

## Learning

*Examining God's Word*

- *What does this passage teach us about God (His character, His attributes, His ways of working, etc.)?*
- *What does God do in the story/passage?*
- *What does this passage teach us about people/mankind?*
- *What does this passage teach us about the church and the world around us?*

### Discussion Guidelines

1. Keep discussion to the passage. It is especially important to rein in members who have more Bible knowledge and may be prone to drawing connections with passages that are unfamiliar to others in the group.
2. Don't teach, facilitate conversation through questions. If a member makes a questionable comment, rather than correcting, ask, "Can you show me where in the passage you see that?" Or ask, "What does everyone else think about that idea?" Allow the group to self-edit.
3. Keep to the time allotted and redirect tangents
4. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
5. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.

## Leaning In

*Responding to God's Word.*

- *What does this passage teach us about obedience to God and His word?*
- *What does passage teach us to obey?*
- *With whom might God be asking you to share these truths with this week?*

## Loving

*Responding to God*

In light of this week's first sermon in our series, "**A NEW HUMANITY,**" what is God calling you to do this week?

- Take a few moments in silent prayer to ask God, in light of this passage, what He is calling you to do, change, or be, this week?

### **Share with your group**

1. What do you need to stop believing (lies), or stop doing (sin)?
2. What do you need to do to be obedient to God's word?
3. What do you need to change in your, thoughts, attitudes, or actions?

Give time (a minute or two) for people to simply examine, breathe, & meditate. Allow them time to ask, "God, what do you want me to do this week because of what I've seen today?" Don't rush this part. This is the transformational part, where my life begins to look differently. I become intentional. Because of my new or reinforced beliefs about God and Man, how do I behave differently this week? What am I going to commit to and become accountable for (with this group)?

Have each person in the group answer the following question: "If this passage is true, how should it change how you live this week? Group members should respond with: "I will...". This teaches the importance of obedience to God's word and allows for accountable the following week. Most of the time the "I will" statements are nothing terribly profound. In fact, they are mostly "simple," but often not easy or natural, requiring effort, intentionality, risk, and loads of faith to execute

## Lifting Up

*Praying for Others*

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for \_\_\_\_\_ about:

## Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?