



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 7th January 2024



Great Expectations Ephesians 3:14-21

Warm Up

What was your first experience of the Holy Spirit? Was He dramatic? Was He quiet? Did you even notice Him? How did you react to Him?

Background and context

The doctrine and the work of the Holy Spirit has always been controversial within the Church. Some churches actively seek and encourage powerful manifestations of the Spirit of God, whilst others view these as something to be kept within the pages of scripture. However, without the transformative power of the Holy spirit, none of us would be Christians at all! It is vital all of us to understand who the Holy Spirit is and why His work is so vital for all of us, every day of our lives.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



Read Ephesians 3:14-21. *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. Why does Paul pray for the Ephesians to experience things that are already true about them as believers?
2. What does it mean to be strengthened with "God's power... in your inner being"?
3. Knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus are two very different things. How do **v17-19** express this truth?
4. How is the difference of knowledge of Jesus and knowing Him experienced in YOUR life?
5. **Read Romans 8:9. Galatians 4:6 and Colossians 1:27.** How might these verses help us understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Can we be a Christian without Him?
6. Why, as Christians, do we often react to the Gospel in an emotionally controlled way? We should be shouting for joy! What stops us?
7. Why are some Christians afraid of the Holy Spirit?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application



8. What evidence is there in your own Christian experience of the work of the Holy Spirit?
9. Together, meditate on 18(b) - 19. Share your insights. How wide, how long, how high, how deep. How does His love surpass all knowledge?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.