



Faith Bible Study Guide

For the Week of July 18th 2021

“Setting Our Hopes”

Group or Individual Study guide

Be still [2 Minutes]

Greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence to allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit.

Be present:

1. How is it with your soul?
2. Have you ever started to pray and ever gotten distracted before you even finished?

Be rooted: Ephesians 3:14-21 (New International Version)

A Prayer for the Ephesians

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, **15** from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. **16** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,**21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

On Sunday, Rev. Allison talked about the 2 distinctive parts of Ephesians:

1. The theology and grounding of Paul's letter
2. The follow through; how we are supposed to act as Christians.

She also talked about the 3 different lessons in the Book of Ephesians:

1. We are Chosen and Blessed
2. Seated next to Christ
3. Have the power and knowledge to comprehend God's love.

Today, we are actually going to deconstruct Ephesians 3:14-21

I. The Invocation - Paul prays in light of the mystery - Ephesians 3:14-15

II. The Petition – Ephesians 3:16-19 (Strength, Depth, Apprehension, Fullness)

III. The Benediction – Ephesians 3:20-21. (The doxology: Now unto Him that is able to do all, above all, abundantly above all, exceedingly abundantly above all. Christ's power is so great He arose from the dead and ascended far above all – vv. 19-23.)

(<https://www.fgbt.org/Lessons/ephesians-3-1-21.html>)

1. Paul's letter to the people of Ephesus is written in such beautiful prose. Have you ever thought of this text this way?
2. Have you ever prayed for anyone in this way before?

Be transformed:

1. What grounds you? Who grounds you? Why?
2. What do you consider a dwelling place? What does it mean to dwell in your hearts? Do you believe that Christ *always* dwells in your heart?
3. When you pray, how do you pray? What are the technical parts of your prayers? Do you have a discipline or specific way of praying, or is it a free flowing prayer to God?
4. Challenge: Pray. Pray with deep intention this week. In the same way that Paul prayed for the people of Ephesus. Think about what you would lift up in prayer?

Be blessed: How has this conversation blessed you today?

And Know that He is God: Gather any prayer requests and pray together.