



# ephesians together

## Review

Initial comments, questions, and reactions about the sermon?

### Main Points:

1. **The Tangent:** In difficulty, you can trust Him.
2. **The Prayer:** His presence, love, and fullness.
3. **The Power:** We have the power of God within us.

## Reflect

Read Ephesians 3:1-21.

### Questions:

1. **Focus on verses 1 and 13.** Joe shared a story where an injured man was rescued by a fellow soldier on the battlefield. As a result, when the rescuer started having seizures later in life, the injured man moved near him to care for His rescuer. His reason was, “After what he did for me, there is not anything I would not do for him.” What does that story show us and teach us about following Jesus? How are you and/or how would you like to respond to God like the soldier responded to his friend?
2. God gives us access to Himself and His presence through Jesus. The struggle we all find ourselves in is between finding God useful and finding God beautiful. How do you think you know if view God one way or the other? Joe shared the story of his grandchildren loving to spend time with his wife Karen, their Grandma. Cookies and toys are good – but not without Grandma. How do we start finding God to be more beautiful, and seeing Him like Joe’s grandkids see their grandma? Do you know someone who lives this out well?
3. **Focus on verses 15-17.** Part of what Paul prays for us is that we would be “rooted and grounded” in the love of God. Joe compared our need for God’s love to the need for love that of a three-year-old - this un-ending need. He asked a powerful question – do you think we have outgrown that need, why? What helps you remember or experience this kind of love found in Jesus? What prevents this from being true in our lives?
4. **Focus on verse 15-17.** Part of the strengthening God provides through His Spirit has to do with the fullness of God’s glory. Joe used the comparison of a brick to a cotton ball to explain that only the glory of God can make pain and sorrow turn the weight of a brick to the weight of a cotton ball. Have you ever had an experience where the eternal perspective of what God has done and will do, has lighted the weight of a painful situation?

## Respond

Application.

Joe ended with a theory that Christians are wildly underachieving. Do you agree, why or why not? Where do you hope to “achieve” and let the power of God transform you? How does that happen, or how has it happened in your life before?

## Pray

Go around as a group and ask for prayer requests. Pray as a group together.

## *Dig Deeper*

If you have time.

Romans 8:18-30.

### *Main Points:*

1. According to this passage, what helps diminish the pain of present suffering?
2. Like we see in Ephesians 3 and this passage, suffering is a part of the human experience, even as Christians. How does the hope of future glory and what Christ has accomplished for us make suffering more endurable? What can we learn from Jesus' and Paul's examples of suffering?
3. Read verse 28. God's Word says that even in suffering, all things work together for good for the ones who are called by God. Have you ever seen God work in the midst of suffering in your life? What was your experience and how did God grow you or care for you through it?
4. Remember the power and presence of the Spirit of God. Reread Romans 8:26-28 and Ephesians 3:15-17. How does God use His Spirit to strengthen and encourage us in the midst of suffering? How does this impact how you view God and your suffering?

## *Announcements*

Please share with your group!

1. **Anxiety and Depression Workshop:** Anxiety and depression are not issues we can avoid, and research shows where there is one, the other is often nearby. We can learn to deal with each in ways that are healthy and glorifying to God. **Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. from Oct. 7–28**, we're offering a workshop designed to help you better understand the nature of anxiety and depression before equipping you to better cope with whatever life throws at you. Whether a personal battle or that of a friend or loved one, this class is for you.
2. **CCC 101:** The vision of CCC is threefold: we desire for people to know Jesus, grow in him, and serve him daily. To discover what that means, get familiar with our church doctrine, and become a member sign-up on **Saturday, October 20 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Register on the church website.
3. **Belong Student Ministry Retreat:** Middle school and High school retreat. Join us **October 20–21** for two days of hanging out with friends, enjoying Skyview Ranch, and learning what it means to belong to God as well as a community of people that follow Him. Register on the church website.