

Prayer Request

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Ephesians 1

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Welcome our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell



Our speaker today and continuing forward is our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell. He comes to us from Camp of the Woods, a Christian resort and retreat center in upstate New York. Kirk served there the

past three years as the Director of Staff Ministries and the LIFT Associate Director, a discipleship program held at the camp during spring and fall semesters. LIFT stands for Leaders in Further Training.

Kirk holds a Th.M. in pastoral ministries from Dallas Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to New York, he served in church ministry for eight years as a Family Pastor and before that as a Children's Pastor. Kirk and his wife, Laura, met while attending Texas A&M University. Laura has served alongside Kirk in each of his ministry positions, teaching women's Bible study, leading children's worship, and most recently, mentoring the young women in the LIFT program. Kirk and Laura have been married for 15 years and have two boys, Spencer (13) and Sean (11). They enjoy spending time in the outdoors, playing Settlers of Catan, and watching Aggie football. Please be sure to take the opportunity to give them a very warm welcome.

And his family.....



1 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Ephesians 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

🔍EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. In 1:15 Paul begins to talk about being thankful for, and praying for the Ephesians. When he says “for this reason,” what is the reason for his thankfulness and prayers?

2. What are the three pieces of knowledge that Paul prays for the Ephesians to receive?

3. What do we stand to gain by praying for people that are already believers?

4. a. Is there a time when you have seen an impact from praying for believers to receive knowledge?

b. How did it impact them and how did it impact you?

5. Practically, what is the best way for us to be committed to continual prayer for our fellow believers?

6. What are other areas in which we can pray for our church?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
