

IMPACTED BY THE SPIRIT
Ephesians 1:15-23

LESSON PREP

Many of your students know about God but struggle with what it means to rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. Here, Paul says that we can be empowered by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead with the promise that God will raise them from spiritual death to life in Christ. Paul's prayer is essentially a prayer of impact—that God would impact what we believe, how we determine our priorities, and by what power we live. Realizing we possess a God-shaped identity will change our priorities, and in turn impact our lifestyles.

PRE LG SAMPLE TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

How can your faith affect the way you think and live? Let's talk about it as a group tonight.

Are you praying for God's wisdom to fill your life? It's a great prayer to pray! Join us tonight to learn more.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 1:15-17

1ON1 FOLLOWUP

Walk through with your students how a positive or negative viewpoint is impacting their current look on life. Also use this as a time to give insight and/or correction (gentle) for worldviews/attitudes that may not be reflecting God's nature.

INTRODUCTION

ABCs of Me

First, take a piece of paper and write your name vertically down the left side. Next, choose a descriptive word that starts with each letter of your name. The word should describe something about you. Write those words horizontally across the paper, using the letters of your name as the first letter of each descriptive word. After you have listed your words, draw a picture to illustrate each. Allow 5-10 minutes for setup, and drawing. When all posters are complete, have each person introduce themselves using their name drawing. If possible, leave the drawings posted throughout the night.

- *Looking at the descriptions you listed to your name, why are you thankful for having these traits?*
- *How can you use these traits for impacting others?*

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Knowing God impacts the way we think.

- *How do your thoughts affect your spiritual life and your patterns of living?*
- *In general, do you find that your thoughts draw you closer to God or pull you away from God? Why?*
- *What does verse 15 reveal about the Ephesians' reputation? How does a group of Christians earn a reputation like this?*
- *In verse 17, Paul asks God to give us spiritual wisdom. What benefits do we get from having spiritual wisdom and understanding? How is this different from natural, human wisdom and understanding?*
- *What does Paul pray to happen to Christians' hearts in verse 18? Why do you think focusing on the heart is important?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Paul lets the Ephesians know how much he cares for them—and how much God cares for them. The closer we draw to God, the more it affects the way we think and understand. Paul then begins to talk about his desires for these Christians, what he wants them to know and accomplish, and what power he wishes them to lean upon to fulfill their calling.*

2. Knowing God impacts the way we live.

- *Paul prays for us to know or understand God's power toward us. Why do you think Paul uses the resurrection as a demonstration of this great power? What are some other biblical examples that remind you of God's power?*
- *How would relying on this divine power impact your lifestyle?*
- *At the end of this passage Paul talks about the body of Christ, the church. What does he say the church is? Have you ever thought about the church in that way before? Why or why not?*
- *Why is the church so important to God? What role does the church play in your life?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Paul makes it clear that there is a greater calling for us than living saved. That's why he talks about the power of the Holy Spirit within us and focuses on the plan that God has for his children to live in relationship with one another through the local church body. Paul wants Christians to understand that walking with God requires a shift not just in how we think but also in how we choose to be in relationship with others.*

APPLICATION

What are some ways we as a group and we as a church could grow in our love toward other Christians, a reputation that the Ephesians had?