

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
“EMPOWER ME” = EPHESIANS 3:14-21
SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPEN

This past week Pastor Milton Mitchell powerfully concluded our *Prayers of the People* sermon series in Ephesians 3:14-21. The hope of this series has been to remind ourselves of the glory and goodness of God so that we would more regularly, freely, and joyfully come to him in prayer. Through the prayers of *revive us*, *bless me*, *send me*, and *empower me*, we hope to posture ourselves to receive the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Before reflecting on the series as a whole, take time to discuss this past week's sermon.

DISCUSS

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21.

1. Pastor Milton pointed us to the beauty of the gospel that shows us that the transcendent Creator is the caring Father who delights in his children. What we make of the thought of God as *father* is a vital factor in the way we approach prayer. What stirs in your heart and mind when you think of God as Father?
2. Read and reflect on the following verses from John's Gospel: 3:34, 5:20, and 17:24. What do these verses reveal about the Father's posture to the Son? How did Jesus, the Son of God, think about and respond to the Father?
3. How would you summarize what Paul prays for the church in Ephesians 3:14-21?
4. Why does Paul emphasize the interior life of the believer—"inner being" (v 16), "your hearts" (v 17), "comprehend" (v 18), and "know" (v 19)? How does the perspective of Paul's prayers challenge you in this season?

SERIES REVIEW

5. What are you taking away from this series to help you appreciate and experience God through prayer?
6. How has this series shaped the way you will pray for yourself and our church in the upcoming year?

PRAY

Close your time lifting those prayers "to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think."