



This Fall we're studying the New Testament letter written to the church in Ephesus. Ephesus is a real city in Modern Day Turkey. The Apostle Paul stopped there on his second missionary journey. This is the trip where the gospel first moved to a different continent. Paul lived among the people in a very pagan city; he didn't avoid the city because of idol worship, slavery, or pagan culture. Paul chose to invest his life in people who were far from God and lost without the truth of Jesus. So Paul lovingly came in, shared the Gospel, and lived among the people. Paul never stopped praying for this church and maintained his desire for them to live in the power of God.

1. Neal opened with the story of a man and his Bitcoin account he can't access. How is that similar to how Christians sometimes live in relation to God's power and presence? Can you relate to that illustration personally?
2. Read Ephesians 1:15. Paul commends the Ephesians for their faith in Jesus and love for others. Where have you seen those two qualities, faith and love, lived out in your own life or in someone else's? (see Hebrews 11:1 and Mark 12:29-31)
3. Read Ephesians 1:16-17. Paul tells the church he has never stopped praying for them (see 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 12:12, and Colossians 4:2). We learn two things about Paul's prayer life: Paul prayed continually and with thankfulness. How might you grow in consistency in your own prayer life this week?
4. Read Ephesians 1:18. Paul highlights hope as central to the Christian life (see Psalm 42:11 and Hebrews 6:19) . In what ways do people around us put their hope in things that ultimately disappoint instead of placing our hope in Christ?
5. It can be easy to think of an inheritance as something we receive later in life or when someone passes away. Paul teaches that our inheritance in Christ is not just future but present. What difference could that make in the way you live this week?
6. Read Ephesians 1:19-21. Paul describes God's power toward us as the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. What would it look like for you to live this week connected to that resurrection power instead of "white-knuckling" your faith?
7. Which part of Paul's prayer do you most need right now: to grow in faith and love, to deepen in hope, to grasp your inheritance, or to live in God's power? How can the group pray for you specifically in that area?