

January 2022

We are in a period of transition! In the coming weeks we will be rebooting our small groups which means we hope to add some new groups and offer some greater opportunity for new people to be added. Everyone will have the opportunity to either jump to another group, stay in their existing group or start a new group. We hope it will give a fresh start to all of our groups while adding some new opportunities for others to be involved.

In the meantime, we encourage our Service Groups to continue your reading thru some great texts together for the month of January (and possibly into February). Since we spent a good deal of time last year in the gospel of Mark and then in Acts, we're encouraging you to read through one of the great epistles this month, Ephesians.

Ephesians is one of Paul's greatest letters, unusual, perhaps, in that it doesn't seem written to address any particular heresy or problem going on in Ephesus. Rather, Paul spends a good deal of time blessing the brothers and sisters there, offering words of encouragement and unpacking some tremendous theology about the church.

Enjoy your time reading thru Ephesians together over these next few weeks. Pay particular attention to the blessings of being in Christ listed in chapter one. Also on the prayer given in chapter three begging in verse 14. It stands as a great prayer for the church today as we enter into a new year with all of its fresh challenges.

Consider, too, how you might help us develop a "new & improved" slate of small groups in the coming weeks. God bless.

-Jim

Discovery Bible Study

Begin with Prayer

What have you been praying about that you would like the group to pray for?

- ◆ *Gratitude*— What happened last week you are most thankful for?
- ◆ *Intercession*— How can we pray for you this week?

Read the text & discuss...

- 1) What do we learn about God, his nature, character or plan?
- 2) What do we learn about ourselves, our nature, our weaknesses, our needs?
- 3) How do I need to respond to this text? What is it calling me to do?
- 4) Who will I share this with this week?

How can we help with a challenge you're facing?

Weekly Schedule

January 9	Ephesians 1:1-23
January 16	Ephesians 2:1-22
January 23	Ephesians 3:1-21
January 30	Ephesians 4:1-5:2

If you are interested in starting, leading or hosting a new small group beginning March 2022, contact Jim at jblack@fpunet.com.