

# GROWTH GROUPS

July 29, 2012

**Daniel 3:26-30; Ephesians 1:15-23**

## **Conversation Starter:**

Have you ever thought that you would like to get to know someone in your life better? What did you do about it to get to know them better? What kind of effort and time did that take?

**Understanding:** Ephesians 1:15-23 reveals one of the prayers that the Apostle Paul prayed for the Church at Ephesus; he prays that they could be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know God better. In this prayer, Paul recognizes that most people do not know God as well as they could. He also recognizes that knowing God requires a supernatural blessing so that we can see, hear and understand what we experience through our senses, helping us move past the mystery that surrounds us when it comes to knowing God. One area that Christians seemed stumped on in knowing God is in just how much God wants to use His enormous power to touch us and to transform us and our circumstances. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego experienced this truth in the OT when they proclaimed not that God would deliver them from the flames but that He could do it. Once they were in the flames, they began walking around in the fiery furnace with the Angel of God. Do you think that experience revealed something about God to them that changed their prayers and their lives completely? Ephesians tells us that God is at work in and around us with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. How does that change or should it change the way you pray and understand God's work in your life?

## **Questions**

1. Is there someone in your life who prays for you? What difference would continually wrestling in prayer for you make in bringing God's grace and power to bear on the stuff of your life? (Eph 1:15-17)
2. Why do we need a supernatural gift of wisdom and revelation to get to know God better? How does God enlighten our eyes and hearts so that we can know hope? (Eph 1:17-18)
3. When you compare the power of God that you experience in your life to other sources of power in your life how does it "stack up"? Is there anything about your life experience that when looked at by others on the outside of the church can only be explained as God doing a work in your life?
4. What role does resurrection/creation power play in the modern Church today? Does the dominion and power of God at work through Christ explain why Churches and Church people are different from every other place and people?

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