



**“Come Awake”  
— Go Deep—  
Small Group Plan**

Dear Small Group,

What do people usually think about when time is running out? What do they see? What do they do? Maybe they're losing their health or they're losing a relationship. Perhaps they're coming to end of their life. What do they see? What do they think about? How do they end? Do they come to the end crying, pleading, confessing, cursing? My grandfather came to his end praying.

As a young campus minister I was going through a time of great stress. But for some reason I always seemed to have the strength I needed. My grandfather was in a nursing home 12 hours away. I had thought of him a lot. But it was only at his funeral that I learned how he had spent his last months. Not talking to people. He had become unaware of them. Not reading his favorite western novels. He had become unable to read. The nurses said he would sit in his room and pray aloud for his oldest grandson - me. And now I know why I had strength at that time.

**OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- Where is your favorite place to pray? Explain why.
- Are your prayers focused more on praise for God, people in need, or simply being in God's presence? Explain.

**LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- Paul begins with, “For this reason.” For what reason – what is Paul pointing back to that leads him to this prayer?
- How is God characterized in vs. 14-15?

- How does our view of God determine the shape of our prayer?

### **ASK GOD TO STRENGTHEN YOU**

**Ephesians 3:16b**

*He may strengthen you with power.*

- Why does God work from the inside out – “*in your inner being*”?
- What does it mean to have God’s Spirit living and working inside?
- In what areas do you most need God’s strength? Explain.

### **ASK GOD TO GROUND YOU**

**Ephesians 3:17b**

*Being rooted and established in love.*

- Why does Paul want the Ephesians to be “*established in love*”?
- Where in scripture is your faith “*rooted*” – what stories, which people, which spiritual truth?
- What has helped the most to establish your commitment to God?
- How are our personal spiritual roots deeply interwoven with the spiritual roots of “*all the saints*” (v. 18a)?
- Is it possible to know Jesus apart from other Christians? Explain.

### **ASK GOD TO FILL YOU**

**Ephesians 3:19b**

*Filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

- What is “*the fullness of God*”?
- How would it feel to be full of God?
- If God were occupying all the empty space inside, what would be pushed out – what personal attitudes, what judgments about people, what cynical conclusions? Be tastefully specific.

### **ASK GOD TO USE YOU**

**Ephesians 3:20b**

*His power that is at work within us.*

- God can work through anyone, even ungodly nations in the Old Testament or uncertain leaders like Moses, Gideon and Peter. But why is it much better when he works through an open, flexible and obedient person?
- How does God utilize a person’s gifts and talents to get His work done?
- What keeps Christians from believing that God can do more than they can imagine?

## **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- “Overflow ministry” occurs when God fills us so full of Himself that our cup of ministry overflows into the lives of other people.
- Where have you observed this happening?
- How can we more fully open the cup of our lives to God?
- What does God put in our spiritual cup?
- How is God’s love and wisdom made known through the Prestoncrest family?
- Close by asking God to help us to become fully awake to His vision for ministry through us. Ask Him to help us cast a vision that is so deep into His territory that we cannot see it and will have to trust Him to make it happen.