

Ephesians 3:14-21
Personal reflection and small group sharing

1) This December, where am I feeling *pressure and anxiety* from the culture, others' expectations of me, and my own expectations of myself?

Where am I feeling *grief*?

Where am I feeling *fear*?

Where am I feeling *discouragement*?

How do I see this pressure, grief, fear, and discouragement reflected in how I am thinking about and preparing for Christmas?

2) Paul deeply desires that his brothers and sisters would share his joy in Christ. What has given me so much joy that I feel I must share with others? Have I grasped the love of Christ in such a way that I won't be content until I can share that love with the people around me? What might sharing Christ's love look like for me this Advent and Christmas?

3) Is there something from this prayer that I want to ask God for this Advent/Christmas?

4) How does this prayer inspire me to pray for my family this month?

5) What keeps me from soaring free in my knowledge of Christ's love?

6) Thinking about the hard and hurting places of my life now, and what I anticipate to be hard and hurting during the holidays: Do I believe that God can do more than I ask or imagine, and that his power is at work within me? Are there times in the past when I've seen God do more than I'd asked or imagined? How might that strengthen my faith for my current situation?

7) What from the Ephesians 1-3 word cloud captures my attention? Is there a word, phrase, verse, or idea from our study of Ephesians this fall that I can remember this month as a way to abide in Christ and to live in worship and thanksgiving?