

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## **Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”**

### **Ephesians 6:18-24**

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

#### **Read Eph. 6:10-20**

- **A Review of the Entire Book of Ephesians**
- **The Manner in Which We Should Engage in Spiritual Warfare**
- **The Closing Benediction**

#### **I. A Review of The Entire Book of Ephesians**

- What have you learned from this study of Ephesians that has affected you the most?
- What have you learned about spiritual warfare?
- Is it surprising that unity is at the heart of this great epistle? Why do you think unity is so important?

#### **II. The Manner in Which We Should Engage in Spiritual Warfare (Eph. 6:18-22)**

- What does it mean to pray at all times in the Spirit? Read the follow quote to help answer this question.
  - To pray at all times is to live in constant awareness of God, where everything we see and experience becomes a kind of prayer, lived in deep awareness of and surrender to our heavenly Father. To obey this exhortation means that, when we are tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for His help. When we experience something good and beautiful, we immediately

thank the Lord for it. When we see evil around us, we pray that God will make it right and be willing to be used by Him for that end. When we meet someone who does not know Christ, we pray for God to draw that person to Himself and to use us to be a faithful witness. When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our Deliverer. In other words, our life becomes a rising prayer... To pray at all times is to constantly set our minds “on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” (Col. 3:2)

- How do you normally react to unanswered prayers? How do you react to answered prayers?
- Paul repeats “all” four times in Eph. 6:18. What does each “all” say about the priority that prayer should have in the believer’s life, especially when it comes to warfare?
- How does the call to “keep alert with all perseverance” give a greater understanding of the war strategy of the Devil?
- How can a believer be faithful to pray for “all the saints?” Give some practical ideas.
- The word “supplication” is used twice in verse 18. In Greek the word means “That which is asked with urgency based on presumed need.” What does it mean to pray with urgency?
- **Read Mark 14:32-35.** How does Jesus exemplify wartime prayer?
- **Read Mark 14:37-38.** What 2 commands are found in verse 38 and how do they relate to each other? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
  - The point of this prayer is for the purpose of maintaining alertness. Prayer causes alertness and alertness keeps believers in prayer. If they are not alert, they do not see the dangers and thus see no need to pray. With the enemy making his assaults, the believers are to be wrapped with prayer and to this end they are continuing to be alert with all persistence and petition. – **Harold Hoehner**
- **Read Eph. 6:18.** What are the two commands found in this verse?
- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate to prayer.
  - Eph. 6:11
  - Eph. 6:13
  - 1 Peter 5:8
  - 1 Cor. 16:13

- **Read Eph. 1:15-23 and Eph. 3:14-19.** What can we learn from these two prayers when it comes to praying for the saints?
- What does Paul face in this war that would make prayer necessary for him to declare the gospel “boldly?” (6:19,20)
- How does the prayer request from Paul help the believer understand the danger of prayerlessness in the lives of individual believers and local churches?
- Does it encourage you that Paul asked others to pray for him as he proclaimed the gospel? Explain.

### **III. The Closing Benediction**

- **Read and discuss Eph. 6:23-24.**
- How do these verses relate to the rest of the epistle?
- How do grace and the love of Jesus relate to each other?

### **Closing prayer**

We pray that you will be to us a father of mercies and a God of consolation, so that you will make us followers of God as dear children, ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please you. You know, O Lord, all our temptations, and the sin that does so easily beset us. You know the devices of the enemy, and the deceitfulness of our own hearts. We pray you, good Lord, that you will arm us with the whole armor of God. Uphold us with your free Spirit and watch over us for good evermore. – **John Wesley**