



PRAYER

COORDINATOR

New Leaders' Bible Studies

Day 1: Identity in Christ

Passage: Ephesians 2v1-10

Getting started: Write down some of the different identities you have in life, e.g. daughter, brother, friend, student, employee. Which of these are most important?

Of all the identities we possess, the most important is that we are 'in Christ' because of God's mercy and grace. In Ephesians, Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus to remind them how the Gospel story affects every part of their story.

Pray that God would open your eyes to the reality of your identity in Christ as you open His word.

Read Ephesians 2v1-10 (*underline/ highlight any phrases that stand out to you*)

1. List some of the comparisons presented in v1-7

Once you/ we	Now you/ we
Example: Dead in transgressions/ sins	Alive in Christ

2. Who is responsible for the change in the lives of the Ephesians? (v4-5) How does this happen?

As Christians, God has extended the same mercy to us as He had to the Ephesian Christians.

3. How does this passage help you to understand what God has rescued you from? Why is that important to remember?
4. How do these descriptions of God's action toward us move or encourage you?
5. In v4-10, what reasons does Paul give for why God has made them alive in Christ?
6. Why does Paul remind the Ephesians that their salvation is a gift from God in verses 8-9? When might you be tempted to believe that your salvation depends on your actions rather than God's actions?

7. Verse 10 says that God has created us to do good works. How is that different from working to earn salvation? Can you think of some of the 'good works' God might have prepared for you?
8. From these verses alone, how would you define grace?

Consider: Where can you be thankful for God's love, kindness, and grace in your life today?

9. How could remembering that you have been "saved by grace, through faith" impact how you view:
 - your role on CU committee?
 - other Christians?
 - those who aren't followers of Jesus?

Pray that God would help you to see the identity He has given you. Pray that you would have a deep awareness of His grace in your life and that that would influence your interactions with others.

Day 2: Bible-Fuelled People

Passage: Psalm 19

Getting started: How do you view the Bible? What role does it play in your life?

The Bible is not something boring or irrelevant to our lives. In fact, it is the living and active word of God, and one of the ways He has chosen to communicate with people. Let's look at the importance of Scripture and its impact on our lives as Christians.

Pray that God would open your heart to hear what He is saying through this Psalm.

Read Psalm 19. Highlight any words or phrases that particularly stand out to you.

1. How does God reveal himself to His people?

v1-6

v7-11

2. What image of God do we see in v1-6?
3. List the descriptions of Scripture and its effect on people (v7-11)

Eg. v 7 Perfect law, refreshes the soul

Consider: Which of these statements is most surprising to you? Why?

The God who communicates with us through Scripture is the same one who created the heavens and continues to reveal his glory through creation.

4. How might that inspire you to spend time in the Bible?
5. What are some of the obstacles to believing the descriptions of the Bible in this Psalm? How would our interaction with Scripture change if we held this view of the Bible?
6. In v12-14 what effect has Scripture had on David's view of himself? What does he pray for in these verses?

Scripture helps us to realise the character of God and His love for us, our sin, our need for God's grace and His desire to make us more like His Son.

7. David understands that the 'meditation of our heart' affects all other areas of life. Why then is it important for Christians to be rooted in Scripture?

8. How will God's word impact
 - your relationship with Him?
 - the life of your CU?

Pray and ask God to help you delight in His word and prioritise it in your life.

Choose a verse from this Psalm and try to memorise it over the coming week.

Day 3: Servant Leadership

Passage: Philippians 2v1-11

Getting started: Write down all the different leaders you can think of, from politics to education, from business to the church. Then think through what makes these people good or bad leaders.

Jesus said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:42-45

The Biblical vision of leadership is a far cry from the view of the world. It is about love, humility, service and self-sacrifice. It is Jesus-shaped.

Pray that as you consider the character of the Lord Jesus you would become more like Him as you try to lead the CU this year.

Read Philippians 2v1-11

1. Being "united to Christ" is a description of a Christian believer. What are the benefits of this wonderful union?
2. What are the outcomes in our relationships with other people of our union with Christ?

Consider: when did you last consciously value someone else above yourself, or put their needs above your own?

3. Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to show you how you have not behaved with selfless humility. Repent and believe the good news once again that Jesus Christ has died to forgive and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

Now read through vs 6-11 a few times. Don't let familiarity with the words distract you from the message.

4. What was Jesus willing to do in order to save us?
5. What did God the Father do for Jesus?
6. How could this portrait of the humility and exaltation of Jesus help you as a CU leader this year?
7. Write the names of each person on your committee. Now pray and for them by name and ask the Lord to show you how you might put their needs before your own. How might you serve them in their specific roles?

This kind of servant leadership would not only make committee meetings joyful but would be a powerful witness to your campus.

Pray and ask the Lord to help all of you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus in the year ahead!

Day 4: Unity

Passage: John 17v20-26

Getting started: Write down some of the ways in which there are variations and differences between members of your CU. How do you feel about being united along with them?

Being united as people from across different denominations and backgrounds is an important aspect of how we operate as a CU. In John 17, we get a sneak peek into a prayer that Jesus is praying to His father, and what emerge are some helpful insights into the unity we have as believers.

Pray that God would open your heart to see how he sees you and your fellow believers as you go through this study.

Read John 17v20-26 (reading the whole chapter will give you a fuller context)

1. What is the purpose of everything that John writes in his gospel? Look at John 20v30-31 to find out. What, then, is the main purpose of John recording what Jesus says here?

We are seeing an insight into How God is making Himself known in this prayer (v3), first through the cross (v1-5), the word given to the eleven disciples (v6-19), and now through a people.

2. What specific people is Jesus praying for here? Who does that include? (v20)
3. What is his main request to the Father in relation to these people, His church? (v21-22)
4. What is the end result of their being one (v21, 12)?
5. Does it surprise you that Jesus puts such an emphasis on oneness in His prayer? How might God's identity shed light on why this is so key for the church (v21-22, Deuteronomy 6v4)?

Consider: How big a deal is it that we show unity as the people of God, as those who reveal the character and nature of God?

6. How does this make a difference to how you think of unity in the CU?

Pray that God would continue to grow His love for your fellow believers in you, and that as He does that and you grow more united, others will believe that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God", and that by believing they would have "life in His name".

Day 5: The Power of Prayer

Passage: Nehemiah 1v1-11

Getting Started: When do you find it easiest to pray? Are there times when you find prayer difficult?

Nehemiah was an Israelite official serving in the Persian government as a cupbearer to the King. In the following passage, we get a glimpse into his prayer life. Prayer reflects a dependence on God and an acknowledgement that without Him we can't do anything.

Pray that God would use this passage to deepen your desire for prayerful dependence on Him.

Read Nehemiah 1v1-11

1. In verses 1-3 what does Nehemiah learn about the situation of his people?
2. What is Nehemiah's response to the news he receives (v4)? What does this reveal about Nehemiah's relationship to his culture and God?

Consider: When faced with difficult circumstances, is prayer usually your first reaction? Why/why not?

3. How might Nehemiah's view of God in verse 5 ignite confidence in prayer?
4. In verses 6-7 Nehemiah repents on behalf of himself and his people. What role do you think repentance plays in prayer?
5. What are the promises and actions of God that Nehemiah remembers in prayer (v8-10)?

Consider: Are there any of God's promises or past actions that you need to remember today?

6. How does Nehemiah expect his prayers to influence his situation (v11)?
7. In what way does prayer demonstrate that we "delight in revering God's name"?

8. How does Nehemiah's model of prayer encourage you in:
 - your personal prayer life?
 - your role as prayer co-ordinator?

9. How might the example of Nehemiah's life impact how you carry out your role, and how you encourage the CU in their prayerfulness?

Think of some people or circumstances in your life that you want to bring before God in prayer. Spend some time praying and listening to God about those things. Nehemiah's prayer spurred him on to take action to help his fellow citizens. Ask God to reveal where he wants you to act in relation to the things you are praying about.