1. Eyes Enlightened

Introductory Question

1. Some people have said, "the things we pray about are virtually absent in the Bible and the things the Bible writers prayed about are virtually absent in our prayers". What is your initial reaction to that?

Observe

Observing what actually happens.

2. What are the prayer topics you cover most frequently and what topics do you hear most regularly in prayer meetings?

What does the Bible actually say?

Ephesians 1:15-23

Do not worry just yet about what this passage means. Just observe what it says.

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

- 3. Verse 15 starts by saying "For this reason...". What are the reasons Paul has not stopped giving thanks for the Ephesians Christians? These show what he values.
 - a. Verses 11-14 give the context. In summary, what is Paul saying that he is constantly thankful for?

b. Verse 15 mentions two specifics for which Paul is thankful. What are they?

Ephesians but each of them contains a "so that". Fill in the follow	ving.
Requests 1:	(v.17)
Why?	(v.17)
Request 2:	(v.18)
Why? So that you may know	
	(v.18)
	(v.18)
	(v.19)
Understand	
Understand 5. Why would each of the following be so important to Paul that he for them?	e never stopped giving thank
a. The Ephesians had been saved.	
b. The Ephesians had received the Holy Spirit.	
c. The Ephesians were people of faith.	

4. In verses 17-19, Paul mentions two things that he keeps asking God for on behalf of the

	d. The Ephesians were people of love.
6.	The two main prayer requests in vv.17, 18 (Request 1 and Request 2 above) are similar. How would you summarise what they say?
7.	Why, do you think, that was a prayer priority for Paul?
8.	 Look up some of these passages. What is the theme that runs through them? Ephesians 3:17b-19 Colossians 1:9 2 Kings 6:13-17 (esp. 17) Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22 Psalm 119:18 Luke 24:31 (c.f. v.16) Matthew 13:13-18 John 9:25 (see also vv.39-41) 2 Corinthians 4:4
9.	Is a prayer for enlightenment/revelation/understanding important primarily for Christians or non-Christians? Why?

10. Consider the four "so that"s. What do you understand by each of these and what different does it make in everyday life?	ice
a. So that you may know God better	
Meaning	
Difference	
b. So that you may know the hope to which He has called you	
Meaning	
Difference	
c. So that you may know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.	
Meaning	
Difference	
d. So that you may know His incomparably great power for us	
Meaning	
Difference	

11. It has been said that the New Testament writers prayed really big prayers – spiritually ambitious prayer. Given what you have seen in Ephesians 1:15-23, what do you think is meant by "spiritually ambitious prayers"?

Over the course of these studies, you will be able to compile a list of priority prayer topics as seen in the various New Testament prayers. Feel free to use the wording you came up with but we can now start that list. In this study we have seen Paul's focus on:

- 1. Salvation
- 2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
- 3. Faith
- 4. Love
- 5. Spiritual insight, revelation, enlightenment
- 6. Knowing God better
- 7. Knowing our hope
- 8. Knowing our inheritance
- 9. Knowing the power of God
- 12. If we pray similarly "spiritually ambitious prayers" for our families, friends, church, etc., what might we see happen?

Apply

- 13. Keep that list with you as you pray for your family, friends, church etc. and pray for those things.
- 14. Spend some time praying now and focus particularly on some of those topics.