

**PRAYER: AWE & INTIMACY**  
**Discussion Guide 4, Week of Feb. 3**

**For Small Groups:** Share about your prayer times as you prayed The Lord's Prayer last week.

**AWE: TRUTH SERMON SUMMARY**

Main idea: We experience the truth of God's word through prayer, especially His love for us.

1. Knowing God's word is vital for spiritual growth and maturity. (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Thes. 2:13) The Bible is God speaking to us, telling us about Himself, and our experience of God in prayer should match what Scripture says.
2. The over-arching theme and primary truth in Scripture that God wants us to know is that He loves us more than we will ever understand.

*For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:14-19)*

3. God is unchanging and His word is still true today. When was the last time you heard Him tell you He loves you? Will you allow yourself to hear it and experience it in prayer?

**QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**

1. Read Eph 3:14-19 (above) again. What words or phrases stand out to you, intrigue you, or catch your attention in Paul's prayer for the Ephesians? Explain.
2. Talk about how we experience being loved. Think of a family member or friend that makes you feel loved. Describe what that's like. How do you know that you are loved by someone? How do you feel, what do you do, how do you respond?

3. How is God's love like - or unlike - the love of a person? Think about both what the Bible says, and what you've experienced in your own prayer life. What do you think helps or hinders people in experiencing God's love?
  
4. Erik asked: *When was the last time you heard God say He loves you?* Your answer might be "recently" or "a long time ago" or "never." You might feel joy in remembering a time, or you might feel discomfort, uncertainty, or have your own questions. Talk about your response to Erik's question and whatever it makes you think about.
  
5. The Prayer Challenge this week is to Meditate on Scripture, especially on Bible verses about God's love for us. Share a verse about God's love that's meaningful to you. It might be one you already know, or one on the "God's Love for Us" list of verses (attached or on the website.)
  
6. Timothy Keller says: *It is one thing to know of the love of Christ and to say, "I know he did all that." It is another thing to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ ..... It is possible for Christians to live their lives with a high degree of phoniness, hollowness, and inauthenticity. The reason is because they have failed to move that truth into their hearts and therefore it has not actually changed who they are and how they live.*  
(From *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, p. 167)

Do you really believe God loves you, is proud of you, delights in you, favors you, and is crazy about you? Share about any struggles you have in experiencing God's love, and what you hope for.

As you close in prayer, tell God what you need and pray for each other.