



Content taken from The Book of Ephesians; 2016; J.D. Greear; RightNow Media

Week 2

Opening Prayer

Opening Discussion:

1. Have you ever struggled to breathe? Suffered an asthma attack? Been stuck under water? Had the breath knocked out of you?
2. When you finally were able to fill your lungs with air again, what did you feel?
3. Did your perspective of breathing—the regular in-and-out of everyday respiration—change? Why?

Today's Scripture Passage

Consider- Without the ability to breathe we can't live. Oxygen is a power source for our bodies. In the same way, our study today will look at prayer as a power source for the Christian life. The Apostle Paul describes his prayer for the people in Ephesus, and asks God specifically to empower the believers there to live the Christian life well.

- **Read: Ephesians 1:15–23** and jot down below any words that stand out to you.

Video 2

Discussion Questions

4. What stands out to you as you think through what J.D. Greear had to say? Any stories or sayings that grabbed you?
5. He summarized Paul's prayer in four parts. What 4 things did Paul want the Ephesians to see? (turn the page)

H_____ (Ephesians 1:18)

Their own w_____ to God (Ephesians 1:18)

P_____ (Ephesians 1:19-20)

The finality of Jesus' r_____ (Ephesians 1:22)

*Which of these stand out to you as meaningful, right now?

6. How is Biblical hope different than worldly hope? Define it.

7. *Consider*: what is the best thing you can do for someone else to help them have this kind of hope?

8. When you hear the word *power* what comes to mind? Give some examples.

9. How does Paul describe God's power? And how is God's power seen in *resurrection*? What does that mean for areas in your life? **Read Romans 8:11.**

Here's what J.D. said (prepare to discuss):

"By invoking the power of resurrection, Paul is saying that God not only has the ability to make us into something—to make somebodies out of nobodies—He has the power to turn bad things into good things. And that's good news, because for many of us our lives are marked by mistakes and death—addictions, destructive behaviors, broken relationships. If God brought life out of death with Jesus, then He can bring life and healing back to the mess you've made of your heart and your life. Do you realize the power that is available to you? What if you really believed that God really would extend the power of the resurrection into your heart, your marriage, or your relationships?"

10. When early Christ followers such as Paul saw what God was doing through the Church they understand (*finish this thought*): "that when the world sees the Church as God designed for it to be, the world ultimately sees_____."

11. J.D. shared this – there are roughly 6400 unreached people groups in the world who have little to no access to the Gospel. What impact did hearing that information have on you? And what was his intent in sharing this?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, in faith we acknowledge Your hope, our worth in Your eyes, Your power, and the finality of Jesus' rule. This week, we ask that these truths and realities would find a deeply rooted place in our hearts so that we grow to be the Church and children of God You would have us to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.