



# Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily  
the Gospel of the Church


## “Eye Opener”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Rev. Ray Cortese, September 6 & 7, 2014

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 1:15-23. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Can you recall a time when something was so obvious, it was right in front of you but you couldn’t see it? Ray asked, “Is God the controlling center of your life?” What is the difference between knowing *about* God and *knowing* God?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### EYES OPENED TO SEE THE FUTURE HOPE

- 3 How does the Bible use the word “hope” differently from the way that we often use the word?
- 4 How can hope in something future give you strength for the present? How has hope, or the lack of hope, affected you or someone close to you? As a Christian, what is your hope?

## EYES OPENED TO SEE GOD'S INHERITANCE

- 5 In your own words, explain what we mean when we say that God has an inheritance.
- 6 How would it change your life if you knew that God was smitten with you, that he delighted in you?
- 7 Ray said, "It's easier to criticize than it is to give affirmation." Do you have a critical spirit? How can God make you a more affirming person? Who in your life needs your encouragement and affirmation?

## EYES OPENED TO SEE THE IMMEASURABLE POWER

- 8 What circumstances in your life do you know right now you are powerless to change?
- 9 If you're a Christian, why can't you claim that it's because of *your* power? Ray said, "Every event of your life had to do with your redemption." What is one event in your life that you now look back on with fresh eyes?
- 10 Our culture is obsessed with postponing death. What does Christianity have to say about our obsession?
- 11 Why is the Church important?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?