



Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily
the Gospel of the Church


“Strengthened”

Ephesians 3:14-21

Rev. Ray Cortese, October 11 & 12, 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 3:14-21. 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 Just like knowing honey is sweet versus actually tasting it, as Christians we can know truths about God, and yet the reality of those truths do not filter into our everyday lives. What is one area of your life where you would like to see more consistency between what you believe and how you act?
- 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?

STRENGTHENED BY HIS GLORY

- 3 Those who were able kneeled for prayer in the service. How did this physical action affect you? What are we communicated about ourselves and about God when we kneel in prayer?

- 4 In your own words, what is the glory of God? What do we mean when we say, “God is glorious”? When was the last time you experienced awe in the presence of God?
- 5 We are not God. Nobody has the freedom to live how they want. How have you insisted on your own way, instead of God’s way, at times in your life?

STRENGTHENED BY HIS LOVE

- 6 What does it mean that the love of God is wide? Long? High? Deep?
- 7 The key to obedience is a change in what you love. Discuss the following:
When religious opponents argued with John Bunyan in prison, they urged him not to assure his Christian friends of God’s unswerving love. “If you keep assuring the people of God’s love,” the opponents argued, “they will do whatever they want.” Replied Bunyan, “If I assure God’s people of His love, then they will do whatever He wants.”
- 8 How does knowing the love of God make you a more secure person in your work, in your parenting, and in your life in general?

STRENGTHENED BY HIS ABILITY

- 9 How might we insult God in the way we pray? When was the last time you asked something big from God?
- 10 Is God’s ability in question when he doesn’t answer our prayers?
- 11 Take extra time to pray together as a group for “big things” related to God and the advancement of His kingdom.

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?