

EQUIP

21 Jun 23

Notes:

A train journey

Ephesians - God has big plans for the church:

1:21 "...he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion... And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything **for the church**, which is his body..."

3:10 "His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

4:1-6 And big implications for us:

- ➔ A life worthy of this calling! – to live and die for the glory of Jesus, by complete humility and gentleness, patience, love, unity – because living together under one head is key to the success of this plan. There is an urgent need to take seriously our relationships with each other and with the Lord. How will this happen?

4:7-16 – God has big plans for our conversations!

Cf Heb 3:12-13, Heb 10:19-25

DISCUSS

Who do you expect to do the ministry that grows this church?

How do you feel about God using your words to help your neighbour grow up in Christ?



Let's Practice!

(Speck and plank)

All of us have ways in which we find life hard, a a burden we are carrying

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See if you can pick an area of your life that might be one of those or something different.

Now think together about a Scripture that relates to that area. For example:

Matthew 11:28-30 'Come to me, all you who are weary andburdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

Heb 6:11 'We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end...we do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inheirt what was promised.'

Heb 4:14-16 '...let us hold firmly to the hope we profess. ... Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us...'

Matt 6:28-34 ' why do you worry ... ? ... your heavenly Father knows that you need [food and clothing]. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

Luke 11:1-2 'One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: "Father..."'

Phil 4:5 'The Lord is near'

All of us have ways in which we are not yet completely humble and gentle

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Do the same as before. Share an area of your life, and share a Scripture

How does it feel to talk about these things? Where could you try this again?

