

## Sermon Bible Study Series

Title: Praying for Love to Be Strengthened

Primary Text: Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Expanded Reading: *Eph. 2:19 - 3:1, Ex. 40: 34-38, Ezekiel 43:1-6,*

Big Idea: Believers, strengthened by the Spirit and are increasingly transformed by faith, grasp, in loving community, the immensity of Christ's love for them, become filled to the fullness of God – God is glorified and dwelling in them.

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**Engage**      **Describe a time in your growing up years where you felt loved and connected.**

- a. ***Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon?***
- b. ***What stood out to you/challenged you/ made you think in the sermon?***

**Learn**      ***Read Ephesians 3:14-20***

1. *Eph. 3:14 begins with "For this reason". What do you think Paul is referring back to in what he has previously written? How does this help us understand his prayer?*
2. *What difference does it make if we understand this prayer for "us" as a people together or "me" individually?*
3. *How might you describe God's glorious riches? (v 16).*
4. *How might you describe the heart/inner self? What are other Scriptures that refer to this? What would it look like to be strengthened by the Spirit with power in the inner being?*
5. *In vs. 18, Paul prays for power to grasp? Why might we need power to grasp the love of Christ?*
6. *In vs. 19, Paul seems to indicate there is more fullness of God to come. What might this further fullness look like? Can you think of other Scripture passages that might refer to this?*
7. *In vs. 20, Paul uses the Greek word "hyper" to describe what God can do for the church as it prays. How does this word impact your understanding of God's power?*

**Deepen**      1. *In what ways have you seen the pandemic impact the way the church gathers and relates to one another? How might you want to pray into this?*

2. *How has conflict or control in the church impacted your faith? How might this passage speak into that?*
3. *What would it look like for you to take seriously God's ability to "do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine"? What would change in your life?*

***What other questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?***

***What other Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?***

## **Live**

*Pray this prayer together for your group and for our church?*

*Spend some brain storming what Go might want you to do in our church and on the North Shore that might be more than we can ask or imagine. Pray for these things.*