**The Search for Glory**

**The Word**

Read together Ephesians 1:15-23

**The Big Idea**

Paul prays for the Holy Spirit to illuminate the hearts of the Ephesians so that spiritual realities they already know would come alive in an even deeper and richer way. His prayer is that their hunger for glory would find its fulfilment in an experience of the glory of God and his gospel.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Read the passage out loud together and then spend a minute or two alone silently reflecting on the different phrases of the passage. What stands out to you from this prayer and why?

2. On Sunday we discussed how Paul’s prayer is a prayer for “the illumination of the Spirit” by which the Holy Spirit takes realities we may already know and helps us to know them more deeply (“in our bones”). Can you think of a time when you experienced the illumination of the Spirit and some spiritual reality came alive to you so that you knew it not just theoretically but experientially and personally?

3. On Sunday, glory was describe in this way: “glory breaks out when people notice something good, true or beautiful and they recognize its desirability and they express approval and praise.”

We discussed the fact that all human beings are always looking for something to glorify/worship. How did Sunday’s discussion help you understand “glory” and your hunger for it in a deeper or new way?

4. Ultimately, it’s the Spirit’s work to open our hearts to God’s glory, but we have a responsibility to participate with the Spirit’s work. Three practices that help us do this were mentioned on Sunday: 1) Scripture meditation (not just reading for information but prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to the Spirit as we take in the Scripture), 2) gratitude (reviewing our day and noticing where we experienced God’s glory and goodness), and 3) confession (sharing the truth of our brokenness with God and re-tasting the goodness of his forgiveness through the cross). Are there any of these practices (or some other practice) you want to pursue more intentionally this week as a way of participating with the Spirit’s work in your life?