

# “A New Year’s Prayer”

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## INTRODUCTION

When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he detailed a very encouraging prayer for them. Within that prayer we find four spiritual truths that we can embrace as we enter the New Year. Those truths can in turn become our prayer of commitment to follow after God in 2015.

## Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What was your conception of God growing up?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### God wants us to Know Him and have a relationship with Him

#### Q1. Read Ephesians 1:15-17, Colossians 1:9-10

Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesians and Colossians spiritual wisdom and revelation so that they would know him. What does it mean to you that God wants not just for you to know about Him but to actually know Him personally? Where is the place you feel closest to God? What habits do you need to strengthen in your life to help you consistently see God clearly?

### We find our Hope in Christ

#### Q2. Read Romans 15:13, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 10:23, 1 Timothy 1:1, 1 Peter 3:15

Paul prays for believers to be filled with hope. In today’s culture the word hope commonly means wishing for something that might happen. But the word used for “hope” in these passages, *elpis*, means a confident expectation. How is the “hope” referenced in the above passages tied to God’s promises? 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to be prepared to give an answer for the hope in you. If asked why you have “hope” (*elpis*) how would you answer?

### We find our Riches are from Christ

#### Q3. Read Ephesians 1:18, Philippians 4:19, 1 Timothy 6:17

God has richly blessed us. This isn’t always in material riches, but according to these verses, where do our riches come from? What does 1 Timothy 6:17 tell us is one reason God provides us with all these blessings? Share with the group the last thing you remember that you recognized was a blessing from God that gave you great joy (perhaps a sunset, a baby’s smile,

raindrops ...) Take a moment to thank God for the many rich blessings He has given you.

### We find our Power through Christ

#### Q4 Read Ephesians 1:18-21, Philippians 4:13, Colossians 1:11

In Ephesians 1:19-21 Paul describes the nature of the power that God has given us. Is there something that makes you feel powerless? We have all heard Philippians 4:13 that states we can do all things, but what are two specific things that Colossians 1:11 tells us God’s power will enable us to do? Which do you need God’s power to help you with most in 2015, doing or patiently enduring?

## WRAP-UP

### *A New Year’s Prayer*

Lord Jesus, my heart’s desire is to grow in my relationship with you and know you better this year than I did last year. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me grow in my desire to spend time with you and give me a deeper understanding of your desire to have a relationship with me. I also pray for a greater understanding of what it means to have hope in you today and for the future. Develop in me an eternal perspective when it comes to money. Remind me I am rich in the things that truly matter and guard my heart from falling prey to our culture’s standards of wealth. Reveal your power working in me and through me. Remind me each day I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I commit myself to you and may I bring glory to your name in 2015. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people*

*Ephesians 1:18 NIV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge:* Pray and ask God to help you grow in your trust of Him no matter what you may go through in 2015. Thank Him for the incredible greatness of His power working in your life.

