

### **Making Application from the Message to Life:**

5. How might you pattern your prayers for the church after Paul's examples in these passages?

6. How would you train another person to pray for the church? What practical components would you include as you disciple others along in effective prayer?

7. What is the church's goal toward which we ought to be praying? Take time right now to pray specifically for the church, implementing the examples you have discussed and seek to apply.

### **A Prayer for the Church**

#### **Ephesians 3:14-19**

*July 6, 2014*

What does Paul pray for?

Trinitarian Prayer:

1. We pray that we'd remember our \_\_\_\_\_  
(v. 14-15)

✧ "For this reason...":

✧ We humbly bow (1 Kings 19:18; Isaiah 45:22-23; Philippians 2:10):

✧ Belonging to the Father (Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 4:4-6):

2. We pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16)

✧ The gift:

✧ The source (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; 3:8):

✧ The strength (Rom. 15:13; Col. 1:9-12):

3. We pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would be the \_\_\_\_\_  
(v. 17-18)

✧ Gospel-centered (John 14:23; 2 Cor. 13:5):

✧ Foundation for growth (Col. 2:7):

✧ Solid ground (Matt. 7:25; Col. 1:23):

✧ Comprehending more of Christ (Job 11:7-9;  
Rom. 11:33-36; Phil. 3:12-13):

4. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19)

✧ Growing without limits (Rom. 8:35-39; 1 John 4:7-11):

✧ Completing the work (John 10:10; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:13;  
Phil. 1:6; Col. 2:9-10):

*“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”*

### **Message-Based Discussion Questions**

1. Who or what has been a formative influence on how you pray?

#### **Digging Deeper:**

2. Read some of Paul’s other prayers for the churches to whom he wrote — Ephesians 1:15-19a, Philippians 1:9-11, and Colossians 1:9-12 (in addition to Ephesians 3:14-21). Discuss the common themes or patterns you find in these prayers for the church.

3. What are some key emphases in these prayers? How are they focused? How are they structured? At the same time, what concepts are noticeably absent from these prayers?

4. What is the end goal that we ought to be praying for the church? What fruitfulness and growth indicates that our prayers for the church are being answered in ways that glorify God?