

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others** **(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)**

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

### **1 Relationships**

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

### **2 Health**

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

### **3 Wealth**

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

### **4 Education**

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

### **5 Church**

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

## **“I Keep Asking”**

2

### **Ephesians 1:15–23**

#### **Purpose:**

To view the model of prayer Paul offers us as he intercedes for the church.

#### **WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)**

When you pray for fellow Christians, how do you usually pray for them? Give some specific examples.

#### **WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord** **(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)**

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

#### **Pray your “thank you” to God**

## **WORD (Aim for 40—45 minutes)**

Sometimes prayer can be like pushing a full wheelbarrow—with no wheel. At other times it's like rushing down the rapids of a mountain river. What makes the difference? In this study we'll see why Paul's prayers overflow with praise and thanksgiving.

1. Read Ephesians 1:15–23. In verses 15–16 Paul says, “For this reason ... I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Why is Paul so thankful in his prayers for the Ephesians?

Why do you suppose these things were so important to him?

2. Why do you think Paul's prayers focus on wisdom, revelation and knowledge?

3.  Compare and contrast Paul's prayers with those you mentioned in answering the welcome question.

4. How does Paul emphasize the tremendous power available “for us who believe” (1:19)?

5.  How has this power been active in your life?

6. How does 1:20–23 expand on Paul's discussion of Christ's headship begun in 1:9–10?

7. How is the church, the body of believers, so central to God's plans for the universe?

8. What role does the church play in your life?

9. What kind of prayer dominates 1:3–14? What kind of prayer dominates 1:15–23? How does intercession naturally flow out of praise?

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