

# Small Group Bible Study - Church Matters!

## Lesson 2 Church Matters to God!

### Sharing Question:

Do you believe “church” has become an afterthought in the minds of some people? Is so, where do you see evidence of this? Do you think the church lacks a real appreciation of its blessedness? How could that happen?

### Study and Discussion Questions:

1. How much does “church” matter to God, according to Ephesians 1:3-14? What has God done to demonstrate the value He places on “church?” **Application:** What is the greatest blessing of “church” to you? How does your answer compare to God’s?
2. What is the significance of the description given to God’s blessings as “spiritual” in Ephesians 1:3? What phrase, repeated often in Ephesians 1, highlights the spiritual nature of the church’s blessings? What distinguishes these blessings? **Application:** How would you respond to someone who desired to be spiritual, but wanted nothing to do with “church?”
3. According to 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, how can we really appreciate the spiritual blessings of “church?” How would you describe a “spiritual person?” **Application:** What do you know about “the mind of Christ?” (1 Corinthians 2:16)
4. How does Ephesians 1:8 describe God’s blessing of the church? What does it mean that HE “lavished on us” the riches of His grace? **Application:** How does the addition of the phrase, “with wisdom and understanding” make this even more personal for you?
5. How could you use the list of blessings in Ephesians 1 to discourage the competition that frequently hides the beauty of the church? How would Paul do this? (1 Corinthians 4:7) **Application:** What does the concept of a “deposit” say to you about the church as it exists today? How should this influence our praying? (Ephesians 1:15-23)
6. How does the statement of purpose given for these “church” blessings (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14) affect your appreciation for the “church?” When you pray like Jesus, “Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done...,” what do you mean? **Application:** What are your expectations of the church of Christ at Withamsville?

## **Church Matters to God!**

Church may have become an afterthought with many people, but certainly not with God! According to Ephesians 1:3-14, church matters to God, and He has invested the vast resources of heaven to prove it. The church, as it exists today, may not fully appreciate its blessings, and, may, in fact, deny its position of blessedness. Nevertheless, God continues to bless His church:

1. Spiritually
2. Plentifully
3. Purposefully

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3