

Generations PRAISE



**WORLD WEEKEND
OF PRAYER
FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**
2-3 JUNE 2018



All-age talk outline

'For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Here's a fun game: try saying this passage from Ephesians all in one breath! How far did you get? I'm guessing you probably didn't get much further than the third line. When this letter in the Bible was originally written, there was no punctuation in it at all. There were no commas or full stops! It was like the writer was so passionate and so excited about what he was saying that it just burst forth and he had to get it all written down as fast as possible. When you read the passage in its context then, you realise that not only is it all about praise, but the very words themselves are the writer praising God. Generations and generations later, as we read these words, we join in with that praise. And this passage gives us a lot to praise God for.

Named.

Giving someone a name is a big deal. Do you know the story of how you got your name? Perhaps you're named after someone from your family or someone that your parents really admire? The names we call each other can have a big impact. When you have a really good friend, for example, you might have affectionate nicknames for each other which show just how close you are. And it's why when people call us bad names, it really hurts. Names matter.



We are God's children, we are part of his family and so we get to share his name. But this is not just any name. It's God's name, the name we can call upon at any time. The Bible says that all those who call on the Lord's name will be saved – so it's a pretty powerful name. Being named by God means we are stamped with his view of us: we are infinitely valuable to him, we are under his protection. And we get to share being part of his family with generations throughout the ages.

Loved.

God's love is unlike any other love. Just check out its extraordinary dimensions: wide and high and long and deep – it's so big it's hard to really grasp it! When you remember that this was written in just one breath, you can see how excited the writer was to proclaim God's love. Being loved by God is being given a massive deposit; no matter what life may throw at us, we will always have God's love. We are filled 'to the measure of all the fullness of God' and that joins us not only to God but 'with all the Lord's holy people,' generations throughout the ages.

Praised.

With the confidence that comes from being named and loved by God, how can we do anything but praise him? He is able to do 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' so let us join with generations throughout the ages to praise him, the God who loves us, who calls us his children, and who will perform wonders that we can hardly dare imagine.

By Hannah Barr, Viva's Doorsteps Team Leader