

Week 5

'Mystery Revealed'

Ephesians 3:1–13

- Why does Paul refer to himself as a prisoner?
- What is the mystery he writes about?
- Imagine being a Jewish believer reading verse 6 at the time it was written. How might you feel?
- How might Jewish believers reading verse 6, feel like the older brother in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)?
- How is Paul a “servant of the gospel”? What does that mean?
- Why does Paul say he is “less than the least of all the Lord’s people”? Is this true?
- When do you feel like you’re less than everyone else? What does God do with the least?
- Paul definitely knew that his calling was to preach to the Gentiles. Do you have a strong feeling about your own calling? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God kept this mystery a secret until the Resurrection?
- Did God know at the beginning of the world that he would have to send Christ to die? Was it part of his eternal plan? Why or why not?
- How is it possible that we can approach God with freedom and confidence because of Christ?
- Does being able to approach God with freedom and confidence encourage and energize you? Why or why not?
- How do you feel about approaching God? Are you afraid to talk to him or ask him for what you need?
- The ability to approach God means we can have a relationship with him, but what does that look like? How do we build and maintain a relationship with him? What has worked well for you?
- Why might the Ephesians be discouraged as they look at Paul’s sufferings?

Application

- Set aside at least a block of time to spend alone with God this week. Read, pray, take a walk, or do something else that helps you feel close to God.
- Identify something you’ve been scared to go to God with—a struggle, a question, a doubt. Go with confidence before God, knowing that he welcomes you into his throne room. He can handle anything you bring to him.
- Think about a situation in your life where you feel you haven’t been recognized properly—something that makes you feel like the older brother in the story of the Prodigal Son. Pray about the situation, asking God to give you a right heart.
- Praise God for revealing his plan to his children and thank him for the ability to approach him with freedom and confidence.

Week 6

'Filled'

Ephesians 3:14–21

- What all does Paul pray for the Ephesians in this passage? What stands out to you?
- What does it mean to be strengthened by the Spirit in your inner being? Have you experienced this? When?
- How does Christ dwell in our hearts? What does it mean to be rooted and established in love?
- Do you think it's possible to grasp how wide, long, high, and deep God's love is? Why or why not?
- How would you describe God's love? What experiences lend to your description?
- How are we able to experience God's love? What examples do you have?
- How does this prayer compare to the prayer in 1:17–21?
- What are your thoughts when you read that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine?
- How does the fact that God is able to do more than we ask or imagine change the way you pray? The way you live? The risks you take?
- When have you seen God do more than you could ever have imagined?

Application

- Use verses 14–21 as an outline for pray for yourself or someone else. Insert your name or your friend's name.
- Consider your last few prayers. Do your prayers assume God is able to do more than all we ask or imagine? If not, how can you pray bigger?
- Identify a situation in your life that seems too big even for God to fix or redeem. Reread verses 20–21. Then tell God about this situation. Acknowledge you don't know how it can be fixed, but you know that he is able.
- Identify someone who has prayed for you and really impacted you. Find a way to thank him or her this week.