

## **EPHESIANS 3:1-13**

### **GETTING STARTED...**

Have you ever had to tell someone bad news? Maybe someone had to be taken to the hospital, or even fired from their job. Being the bearer of bad news is never fun. On the other hand, getting to tell people good news is a special privilege. When someone gets pregnant, engaged, or a new job, getting to deliver that good news is a joy that we protect for the people involved. We almost feel bad telling other people's good news, we wait for them to be able to share themselves. In a similar way, as Christians we have the privilege of sharing the good news of what God has done in our lives. Every believer has the joy and responsibility to share this good news of what God has done in our lives with those around us. What incredible joy we get to participate in!

### **READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 3:1-13**

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. A “mystery” in Paul’s context is something was previously hidden or not known by people, but has now been revealed. What is the mystery that Paul is talking about in vs 1-6? How was it hidden? How is it now revealed?
2. In verse 13 Paul says his suffering results in their glory, what does he mean by that?

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

*Agassiz/Lake Errock* How does understanding that the Gospel is for everyone, regardless of background or status, change the way we view others in the church and in our communities? In what ways can we actively promote unity within the body of Christ, both in our local church and in the broader church community?

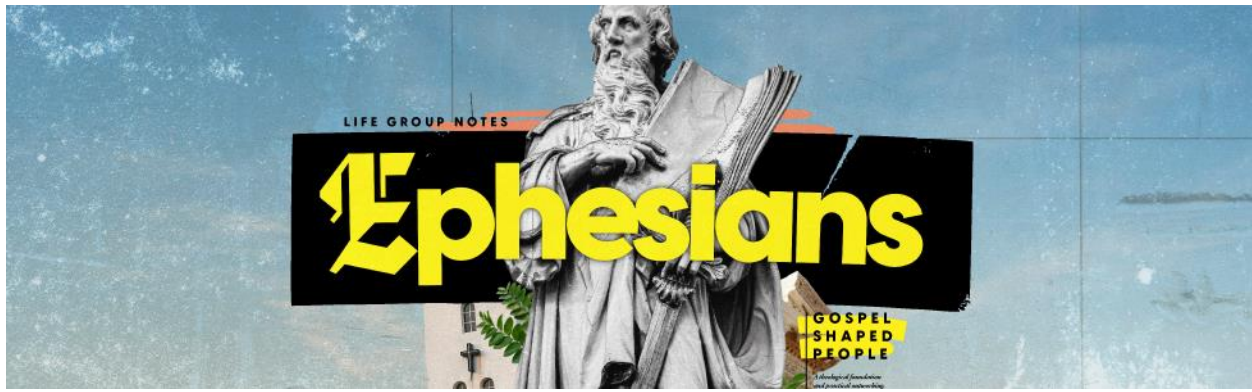
*Chilliwack* How is grace outwardly expressed in your life? How can you more intentionally make expressions/displays of grace a regular part of your daily life?

*Harrison* What is your biggest hang up in being a minister of the Gospel? How does Paul’s calling as found in Ephesians 3:1-13 give you confidence in serving Jesus and making Him known in word and deed?

*Promontory* Have you ever “written someone off” as being too far gone to ever come to Christ? If so, describe how you came to that conclusion and how that affected your relationship with them. What does the fact that both Jews and Gentiles can come to Christ and be fellow citizens with God’s people tell us about the power of the Gospel?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*