

PRAYER

- Pray for the privilege of being able to share God's goodness to the people around us, first by how we live, then more importantly, by how we testify about Jesus.



Honor God. Make Disciples.

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Mystery

Week 3

NOTES

CONNECT

- Tell us of something you used to believe in the past but you have changed your mind about since. Why the shift?
- How did you feel when you got invited to a prestigious event that was impossible for you to get an invitation?
- When was the last time you received a privilege or favor that you did not expect?

WORD

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:4-6

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

In the Old Testament, the Israelites rightly believed that they were God's chosen people (Exodus 6:6,7). Though there were indications that Gentiles will also be added to God's kingdom (Genesis 12:2,3; Isaiah 2:2-5; Daniel 7:14,27), the Jews found this to be a mystery. It was soon revealed in Ephesians 3:4,5 that both Jews and Gentiles would be equal partakers of what God offers through the gospel in Christ. This is how Apostle Paul unpacks this mystery for us.

- **We are heirs of God's inheritance for His people.**

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:29

Before Jesus came, the concept of the church having Jews and Gentiles united as one people remained a mystery. However, Apostle Paul described it best in his writings what Jesus has done to include the Gentiles as heirs of God's promise (Galatians 3:29; Ephesians 1:13,14). This is possible for anyone who would believe in Jesus and what He has done (Romans 1:16). Name a few promises in the Bible that we are entitled to as God's people.

- **We are messengers of God's gospel to the world.**

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ . . .

Ephesians 3:8

Just as we are beneficiaries of the gospel, we also share in the calling to make it known to more people. We are given the privilege to carry this Good News and become its messengers. Like Paul, we can bank on God's grace to fulfill this role (Ephesians 3:2,7). Why do we need God's grace to do this?

- **We are given power to live out the gospel, and make it known.**

¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Paul mentions the spiritual power that enables us to live for God when we yield to Jesus' leading (Ephesians 3:16). This "power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20) gives us purpose and victory as we walk with God every day. With God's grace, not only can we live according to His ways, we too can continue to grow in the riches of the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:22,23). How have you experienced God's grace lately?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What does the knowledge of God extending the gospel to the Gentiles do to your faith in Him? How significant is this mystery revealed to you?
- In God's desire to relate with us, He allows us to take part in reaching the world with His gospel. More than a responsibility, this is a privilege! How does this make you feel?
- How does the idea that God empowers us to live the Christian life change you?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Do you already "belong to Christ?" If you would want to, talk to your Victory Group leader about it.
- What can you do today to start living what you have been called to, as a messenger of this Good News?
- The Christian life is a life of relationships: with God, with other Christians in a local church, and with those who aren't Christians yet. How can you improve on these relationships?