

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday September 6, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Ephesians 3:1–13**, God is not simply asking His people to admire the gospel or leave His mission to a few especially gifted Christians. He is inviting ordinary followers of Jesus to receive His grace and join Him in making Christ known. The tension is that fear, busyness, insecurity, or even our past can make it easier to stay quiet than to step into opportunities around us. Paul reminds us that God uses people who have been changed by grace to carry that same message of grace to others. As we talk together, consider where God may be inviting you to take a simple step of obedience.

Main Passage:

Ephesians 3:1–13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Mission

READ ALOUD

Ephesians 3:1–13

Opening Question: What is something you care about enough that you naturally find yourself telling other people about it?

- What words, ideas, or phrases stand out to you in this passage?
- What do you notice about how Paul describes his role and the role of the church?
- What does this passage reveal about why God has entrusted the gospel to His people?
- Where might this passage challenge the way we think about our own role in God’s mission?

APPLY

- What tends to make sharing your faith difficult for you—fear, busyness, uncertainty, your past, or something else?
- Who has God already placed in your life that may need to see or hear the hope of Jesus through you?
- What could it look like this week to pray for a burden, an opportunity, and boldness with that person?

RESPOND

- What is one specific step of obedience you will take this week to help someone move toward Jesus?
- Who can you tell about that step so they can pray for you and encourage you?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Ephesians 3:14–21

- What does Paul pray that these believers would experience or understand?
- How might being deeply rooted in the love of Christ change the way we relate to people who do not know Him?
- What connection do you see between being filled with Christ and living on mission?

PRAY

Invite everyone to quietly consider who God may be bringing to mind. Ask God to deepen your love for Jesus and give you a genuine burden for people who need Him. Pray for open eyes to recognize opportunities and for courage to respond when they come. Thank Jesus for the grace that saved and transformed us, and ask Him to help the group live obediently as His messengers this week.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Ephesians 3:1–13

- What do you notice about Paul in these verses?
- Why do you think God wants people to hear the good news about Jesus?
- Who has God placed around our family that we can love, pray for, or encourage?
- What is one way our family could help someone see the love of Jesus this week?

For younger children: Help your child understand that Jesus can use them to show His love through simple acts of kindness, courage, and obedience.

For older kids or students: Who is one person God has placed in your school, team, or friend group that you could intentionally encourage or talk with about your faith?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 19:1–7
- **Day 2:** Acts 19:8–12
- **Day 3:** Acts 19:13–20
- **Day 4:** Acts 19:21–27
- **Day 5:** Acts 19:28–41

What's Going On?

Paul writes Ephesians 3 from imprisonment, but his focus is not primarily on his circumstances. He explains that God has revealed the “mystery” of the gospel: through Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles are brought into one family and one body. Paul has been entrusted with taking that message to people who previously seemed far from God.

This matters because God’s plan to make His wisdom known includes the church. Followers of Jesus are not simply recipients of grace; we become people through whom that grace is made visible and shared. Paul’s suffering also shows that following Jesus may carry a cost, but the mission of Christ is worth our obedience.

A Bit of Background

When Paul uses the word “mystery,” he is not describing something confusing or impossible to understand. He means something God had previously kept hidden but has now clearly revealed through Jesus: Gentiles and Jews can belong equally to God’s people through the gospel.

That would have been a powerful message in a world deeply divided by ethnicity, religion, and culture. The church itself became evidence of what Jesus can do—bringing very different people together as one family and then sending them together to make Him known.