

October 8 - Ephesians 3:1-13

Opening

What is one low (negative thing) that happened to you this past week? What is one high (positive thing)? Write them down. If you're meeting with a group, take turns sharing them with one another.

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life over the past week?

Name a time when you had a big secret revealed to you.

Prepare

Spend 1 minute in silence (time yourself!) to center yourself and prepare to hear God's Word.

Read

Read Ephesians 3:1-13 twice. If you are in a group, have two people read it, one after the other, with a brief silence in between. As you read and/or listen, look for a word or a phrase that catches your eye or moves your heart. Circle it or jot it down. Linger over it and give it your attention. If you are in a group, take turns sharing your word or phrase and what it means to you.

When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles... assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

Reflect

In what way(s) have you been given the privilege of serving God?

Why might God have kept God's mysterious plan secret for so long?

How does the church display God's wisdom to the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places?

Pray

Spend time in prayer for yourself and others. If you are meeting in a group, share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Practice

I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News...

Each day this week, find a way to exercise this privilege of serving. Here are some ideas to try:

Do a small act of service for a friend, family member, or stranger.

Pray for an opportunity to share the Good News with someone today.

Share with someone a story of how you have experienced God's grace.

Closing blessing

All who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children!