



EPHESIANS SERIES

**BUILT ON
BIBLICAL
BEDROCK**

THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

STUDY GUIDE • EPHESIANS 3:1-13



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WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Share with the group how a fellow believer ministered to you (e.g. encouraged you when you were down, supported you during difficulties, etc.) and made you feel God's love. Did the experience inspire you to pay it forward and minister to others as well?

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
- In Christ Alone

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. Members will realize that God called them to serve as part of Christ's body.
2. Members will appreciate God's grace that enables them to serve.
3. Members will share the gospel with their unbelieving family and friends.

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lessons, we learned about how Christ united all believers into one body called the Church. Believers are now equal in the sight of God; there is no distinction whether racial, national, lingual, etc. In this lesson, we'll learn about God's calling for Paul to serve in ministry and the message God gave Paul to proclaim.

God called Paul minister to the Gentiles (vv. 1-2, 7-8)

1. What was the stewardship that God gave Paul?
2. Was this something he earned or was deserving of?
3. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "stewardship?"
What does it mean to be a steward?
4. Is God's calling exclusive to apostles, pastors, and missionaries only?
(cf. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:27-28; 1 Peter 4:10)

Application

Children

Kids, can you share what your life is like now that you have Jesus? (Choose from the descriptions that you think best fits how your life in Jesus looks like: "peaceful", "happy", "feel safe") Now, don't you think we should all the more tell others about life with Jesus so that they can be happy, safe and peaceful too?

Youth

At this point in your life, it can be natural to feel lost at times and unsure of what you're called to do. What are some of the abilities and skills God has blessed you with? What are the unique opportunities? What are the things you find yourself burdened to serve in?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Adults

1. If somebody in the church told you “I want to serve God but there are no opportunities for me inside this church” – how would you correct this person’s way of thinking? How does Paul’s own call to ministry give us insight into God’s call to ministry for every believer?
2. Some Christians have made mistakes so grievous and public that they think God will never let them serve Him again even after full repentance. How can you encourage a Christian who looks at him/herself that way?

Community

God commissioned us to make disciples wherever He has placed us (Matthew 28:18-20). How is God calling you to be a minister to the people in your community? Perhaps God is giving you a burden to reach out to particular persons. Ask God to make you sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings.

World

As we are now part of the royal priesthood of God (1 Pet.2:9), what are some of your priestly duties and responsibilities to the nations?

God called Paul to preach the mystery of the gospel (vv. 3-6, 9-13)

1. What is this mystery that God revealed to Paul, which he had written about earlier? (cf. Ephesians 2:13-16; Galatians 3:28)
2. Was this mystery revealed by God in the past? (cf. Colossians 1:25-27)
3. What was God’s purpose and plan for revealing this mystery? Through what agency is God’s manifold wisdom made manifest? To whom is God’s wisdom made known? (cf. 1 Peter 1:10-12)
4. What is the significance of this mystery which God has revealed?
5. It is through the church that God’s wisdom is displayed to heavenly rulers and authorities. What does this tell you about the importance of the church?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Application

Children

Let us write down a list of names of friends/classmates, teachers, or relatives that you can pray for. Ask the Lord to make them want to have Jesus in their lives, to prepare their hearts, and that God will send people to share with them God's Word. You can also pray that God will use you and show you how you can talk to your classmates or friends about the love of God for them, but we need to pray first.

Youth

1. Who are the people in your life right now who don't quite see the good news as "good" news? How can you encourage them this week to see the goodness of Jesus in the gospel?
2. Sometimes, we think that the good news of the gospel is just news for us to receive and not pass on. Who can you share the good news with this week? Who can you challenge to share this good news with you?

Adults

1. The mystery of the gospel is good news to all people. Are there people in your circles of influence who have yet to hear of this good news? Commit to pray for them this week and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel to them.
2. There is a growing trend today to dismiss the local church as unnecessary, irrelevant, or hypocritical, so that "I will just worship God on my own, hopping among unlimited choices of online churches." What would be some of the negative consequences of that attitude? Why is it ideal for a believer (if it is not risky and if it is physically possible) to be at on-site worship if possible? (cf. Hebrews 11:25)

Community

How can you open opportunities for sharing the gospel with people in your community? Ask God for wisdom and that He prepare the hearts of the people to be receptive to the gospel.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

World

Christ among you and the reality of God's presence is now real for both Jews and Gentiles. How then, can you invite the nations to "come home" and be in the dwelling place of God?

PRAYER ITEM

Read Ephesians 5:25-30 together, then pray and worship Christ together for the high regard He has for the church, His Bride. If need be, confess any negative attitudes you may have developed about the church for any reason, remembering that human shortcomings can never thwart the ultimate purpose and favor of Christ toward His Bride, the church.



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If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



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