

# Family Worship Guide

Sunday, June 26, 2016

## **Ephesians 3:1-13**

### **“Being a Steward of God’s Grace in Christ”**

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you;<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.<sup>4</sup> By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;<sup>6</sup> *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,<sup>7</sup> of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.<sup>8</sup> To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup> so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.<sup>11</sup> *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.<sup>13</sup> Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

## **QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION**

### **Getting Started**

- Who is your favorite mystery writer? What is a favorite mystery movie?

### **Going Deeper**

- Like Paul preached to the Gentiles, who reached out to you and encouraged you with the Gospel?
- What mystery that was made known to Paul is revealed in this passage?
- What was Paul’s view of the mission God had given to him (vv. 7–10)? What important mission does the church have in God’s plan?
- Why would Paul consider himself “the very least of all saints” (v. 8)?
- What wonderful benefit of being in Christ is mentioned in verse 12? On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), with how much “boldness” and “confidence” do you approach God?

### **Bringing it Home**

- How can we share the Good News of the Gospel of Christ in such a way that people really hear it?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 1626–7.