



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. The Journey Resources
- IV. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

For the Final Sermon given on June 2, 2024
by Pastor Bryan Wilkerson

THE WONDER OF IT ALL – Ephesians 3:1-20



I. **Introduction**

From Pastor Bryan:

“After serving as Senior Pastor over the last 24 years, this is my final sermon. I spent the last two weeks traveling in the footsteps of the apostle Paul with 40 Grace Chapel friends. We visited Rome, Corinth, Athens, Ephesus and Crete. As I learned about Paul’s ministry in Ephesus, I found some parallels to my ministry here at Grace. As I read through Ephesians 3, I found three feelings rising to the surface of Paul’s heart, and also mine. Today I would like to share these feelings that will help you understand Paul and me. More importantly, these feelings might inspire you as you consider God’s call on your life.”

Questions: How can you fill your life with gratitude, wonder, and hope?

Bottom Line: When you find your way to Christ and His church, it fills your life with gratitude, wonder, and hope.

Let’s begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

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Main Scripture Readings: Ephesians 3:1-21

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people 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.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 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 Lord's holy people, 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.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

II. **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Bryan said, "I think that everyone wonders what their last day of work will be like." Have you thought about this? How would you feel? What would you miss? What would you be looking forward to?
2. The first feeling Paul shares is GRATITUDE to be called by God to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Gentiles. Pastor Bryan is grateful to God for calling him and equipping him for a lifetime of ministry.
 - Ask your small group to share if they have sensed God's calling, or experienced God's redemption. What is it that you are grateful for?
3. The second feeling Paul shares is WONDER at the growth of the church. In one generation, the church has taken hold in the far corners of the world despite widespread persecution. Pastor Bryan looks back in wonder at all that God has done through new ministries, multiple campuses, domestic and international trials and tragedies, and the thousands of lives that have been transformed through faith in Christ.
 - Can you look back on your own life and say that God was the only explanation for what happened?
4. The third feeling Paul shares is HOPE that through the power of the Holy Spirit the church community would continue to grow in love, power, faith, and knowledge. Pastor Bryan has said that it is a pivotal time for the church. A time for repentance, reform, and re-imagining what the church can be and do in a world that needs the church to be vibrant, and Christ-like, and good.
 - What changes would you like to see in our church community in the years to come?

Take Home Message: Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

*Let's Pray***III. The Journey**

We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

IV. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

Teaching Points:

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