



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“EPHESIANS 3:1-13” ON SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 3:1-13

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 Paul’s words in this eloquent passage deliver a straightforward message: JESUS IS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE; the Kingdom of God is for ALL!! In verses 9-10, Paul states “ ....And to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, SO THAT through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

As CU Church celebrates 5 years of learning together how to LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE, we can be encouraged by Paul’s words to move to the next phase: Getting MORE SPECIFIC in how we can love the people around us! Read this Ephesians passage again and consider how it can impact and guide our next step of this journey together as a church body in loving God and loving people; how can Paul’s words challenge and encourage us?

- Paul describes finding joy in hardship (prison); can you describe a time in which you were able to find joy amidst hardship? How did that feel, and what did you learn from it that will help you love God and love people more?
- Paul talks of ‘stewarding the grace God has given...’ How well are you stewarding the grace He’s given you? How well are you sharing the gifts and abilities He has given you - or are you using them more for your own purposes? How well are you telling the story of His miraculous gift of grace to you – how can you be more specific in doing that?
- Jesus carefully chose the people He surrounded Himself with – His disciples, His followers, those He reached out to; how does that challenge you to view those around you that are outside your ‘comfort zone’ – but who need to know about Jesus? What steps can you take to go outside your comfort zone to see them through God’s eyes, to reach out and love them as God loves you – as a member of the body of believers at CU Church?
- Paul speaks of the mystery of Christ: What does it mean to you to know that through the gospel you are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – a royal priesthood?
- What is your understanding of the ‘manifold wisdom of God?’ When we consider that, we are left with the responsibility as a church to LOVE PEOPLE because of how God loves US! How can we better give that love in our next steps as a church body?
- ARE you delivering the wisdom of God to people? What in your past or present causes you feel you are not able/capable/deserving of being used by God? How does Paul’s example challenge that feeling?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

**CELEBRATE!** Take some time to share with one another what brought you to CU Church, and what you have seen God doing at CU Church over the last 5 years. Share stories and experiences, joys and struggles, highlights and plans - looking back in thanksgiving and looking forward in hope and expectation! Rejoice in what **ONLY** God can do!

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.