

December 8 – 14

Walk Worthy | The Mystery

Icebreaker: Have you ever been a member of an exclusive club or organization? What did it take to be a part of that group? OR Was there ever a group you wanted to join but did not qualify? How did that feel?

In this session, we will consider that the work of Christ made possible the inclusion of Gentiles as a part of an exclusive group—the people of God.

Read Ephesians 3:1–6

- What do we learn about Paul's ministry?
 - What made it unique among the other apostles?
- A mystery can be something impossible to understand or something that is not yet revealed. Which one is it here?
 - How and to whom was the mystery revealed?
 - What is the mystery according to verse 6?
 - **How did this mystery change the understanding of redemption history?**
 - Look up Genesis 12:1–3. How is this a fulfillment of that prophecy?
 - **Why was this mystery a radical concept? Why would it have been opposed?**

Read Ephesians 3:7–13

- What does the word gospel mean? What is the content of the gospel for which Paul was a minister?
- What role did God's grace play in Paul's ministry? Why is it important to understand that Paul's ministry was based on God's grace?
 - What would a ministry be based on that is not by grace? What would be the result of that kind of ministry?
- What are some of the words Paul uses to describe his message?
- According to verse 10, to whom is the wisdom of God revealed through the church? Why is this significant?
- Why is boldness, confidence, and access in relationship to God a radical concept for these Jewish and Gentile readers?
 - What was access to the divine like for Jews and Gentiles prior to Christ?
 - What makes our access to God possible?

Application

- Do you ever consider how radical it is that we have access to a relationship with God? What ought our emotional response be to this?
- What would it look like to access God with boldness and confidence? What keeps us from approaching God in this way?
- Read Revelation 7:9–12 as a prayer to end this lesson.