



EPHESIANS

BLESSED • ACCEPTED • BELONG

*“So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”
Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)*

LESSON 8: THE MYSTERIOUS PLAN

Nothing is more exciting than when a mystery is revealed! That was Paul’s mission from the King. He was entrusted with the privilege of revealing God’s mysterious plan to the Jews and the Gentiles. What exactly was this plan? Simply stated, it was the good news that ALL are welcome and equal to Jesus. Paul’s role was to make God known to the Gentiles, specifically how the Jews and Gentiles would be joined together in one body of Christ, into one church. This is a powerful reminder that all of us have an equal standing in Jesus. His mysterious plan has been revealed! Take a moment to think about this truth and pray for an opportunity to reveal this truth to someone this week.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer.

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 3:1-13 (NLT)

¹When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles. ²assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. ³As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. ⁴As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. ⁵God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. ⁷By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. ⁸Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. ⁹I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. ¹⁰God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence. ¹³So please don’t lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

This Week's Memory Verse:

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

1. Paul begins this week's scripture by describing himself as "a prisoner of Christ Jesus" with a specific purpose. What is his purpose according to verses 2? _____

2. In verse 3, Paul was charged with presenting God's plan to the world. In verse 6 His plan is revealed. In your own words, describe this plan. _____

3. How is this message spread according to verse 7? _____

4. We often try to do things on our own – whether due to pride or ignorance – and the outcome is never good. Read Galatians 5:16-18 and note what happens when you try to do things on your own versus when you rely on God. _____

a. Have you ever tried to do something on your own, without God's help? What was the outcome?

5. According to verse 12, what can we do now that we have faith in Jesus Christ? _____
