

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 3:1-6

2 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The Mystery Revealed to Paul**
- **The Mystery Revealed to the Apostles & N.T. Prophets**

I. The Mystery Revealed to Paul

- **Read and discuss 2 Peter 1:16-21.**
- What is Peter describing in this passage?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** The Transfiguration, Matthew 17:1-8
- Why do you think Peter was so insistent that he was an eye-witness of Jesus’ glory?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** There were scoffers in Peter’s day that claimed there would be no second coming of Jesus. Read 2 Peter 3:3-4
- **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21** How did Scripture originate? What insight does this passage give us in regard to the doctrine of inspiration?
- Why should 2 Peter 1:16-21 give us confidence in the trustworthiness of scripture?
- **Read and discuss 1 John 1:1-4**
- To whom is the personal pronoun “we” referring in the first 4 verses?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** The Apostles

- What are some of the ways John is emphasizing his Apostolic authority in 1 John 1:1-4?
- Why is John appealing to his Apostolic authority in this epistle?
- **Read and discuss Eph. 1-6.**
- How is Eph. 1-6 similar to 1 Peter 1:16-21 & 1 John 1:1-4? In what ways is it different?
- Why do you think Paul felt the need to defend his Apostolic authority in this passage?
- Paul speaks of a mystery: that the Gentiles are now welcome in the family of God. Why was this such a big deal?
- In your own words, summarize the mystery revealed to Paul that he relates in this passage. How was this not known by the sons of men in other generations (verse 5)?
- In Ephesians 3:2 Paul says he was given “the stewardship of God’s grace.” Why do you think he used the word “stewardship?”
 - **Leaders Cheat:** In Greek the word translated “stewardship” primarily referred to the management of a household, business, or other concern on behalf of someone else. A steward was responsible for taking care of that which belonged to someone else. He supervised such things as buying, selling, bookkeeping, planting, harvesting, storing, the preparation of meals, the assignment of duties to slaves, and whatever else needed to be done.
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - Every believer is a steward of the calling, spiritual gifts, opportunities, skills, knowledge, and every other blessing he has from the Lord. Everything we have belongs to the Lord, and we are therefore entrusted as stewards to manage our lives and everything we possess in behalf of the One to whom they belong. We are faithful stewards when we use what we have to minister to those within the family of God and witness to those who are without. “As each one has received a special gift,” Peter admonishes us, “employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10) – John MacArthur
- In what ways was Paul a faithful steward of God’s grace to both the family of God and to a lost world? How can his life be an example to us?

- What are ways you can be a better steward of the resources and giftings God has given you?

II. The Mystery Revealed to The Apostles & N.T. Prophets

- **Read Eph. 3:4-6** and discuss how God revealed this mystery to the Apostles. Read the following passage to help answer this question.
 - Matthew 28:16-20
 - Luke 24:44-47
 - Acts 1:6-8
- **Read Acts 2:1-12** Why is it significant that when Peter preached the Gospel for the first time in Acts, it was preached in every language? What does this passage tell us about God's heart?
- What are some ways we can align our heart with God's heart when it comes to reaching the nations?
- **Read Acts 11:1-18.** Why is this such an important passage in Scripture?
- Spend some time praying for our cross-cultural workers.
 - Jimmy & Emily – Southeast Asia
 - Chris and Kelly Lillpop – Poland
 - Austin and Heather – Middle East
 - Johnathan & Liesl – With COBC for a year than heading to South Asia.