



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

10. The gospel, while intensely personal, has broad social effects. In our day, what parallels to the first century's tension over Jews and gentiles do you see? What role is the church perceived to have in these issues by outsiders?

11. **Since gentiles and Jews were to be seen as “heirs” together (v.6), what does this imply about how you ought to relate to those who are on the “wrong side” of the issues that are important to you?**

12. Who do you know that you could reach out to with the gospel and invite to this group?

13. Paul used his time in prison to contemplate the deep truths of the “mystery of Christ.” What deep truths of the faith would you like to explore if you found yourself with plenty of time to meditate and study?



October 25, 2009

Ephesians #6

MYSTERY LESSONS

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

Some of our group may have been at the retreat at Camp WaMaVa this morning. Not to fear; Paul's points in these lessons are practical that all of us can think about and apply.



OPEN:
(2 minutes)

1. Which phrase best describes how good you are at keeping a secret?
 - Mum's the word
 - I know a secret, but I can't tell you.
 - I shouldn't say this, but...
 - Quick, hand me the phone!

2. What's the best news you've heard in recent months?

3. Who is your favorite mystery writer or your favorite mystery on TV or in the movies?



DIG: 
(20 minutes)

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

4. In your own words, how would you explain the mission of the church from verses 6,10-11?

5. Consider the implications of the three metaphors Paul uses to describe our relationship with God and with Israel in verse 6: coheirs; members of the same body; partners in the promise. What do these things mean?

Word Study:
“Mystery”— In Greek, a mystery is something that is beyond human reason to figure out but once God reveals it, it is open and plain to all.

6. What were the issues that separated Jews and gentiles in Paul’s day?

7. What mystery that was made known to Paul is revealed in this passage? What mystery about the Christian faith are you still trying to understand?

- That Jesus died on the cross for me.
- That I am saved through grace, not by works.
- That God can forgive my past.
- That I can talk to God in prayer about anything.
- Other _____.

8. Like Paul preached to the gentiles, who reached out to you and taught you the gospel? Who actually led you to Christ?

9. How would you compare Paul’s passion to share the gospel with your own?