

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Ephesians 3:8-10

Ice Breaker: What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen in your life this week?

Ice Breaker: What was the first church you ever attended and who invited you to come?

DISCUSSION 1: The Mystery Revealed

1. What is the church? What is the difference between the local and global church?
2. What are the essential elements that need to a faithful church? What are some key bench marks that you look for to determine whether a church is healthy?
3. In Ephesians 3:9, Paul speaks of a "mystery hidden for ages." What is the mystery that now uncovered (Eph. 3:1-6)?
4. Paul's mission was to bring to light this mystery through his preaching and teaching. What is God's purpose in calling Paul to bring to light this mystery of the church?
5. How is the manifold wisdom of God displayed in the church? What about the church displays the glory and wisdom of God?
6. How do we reconcile the times when the church seems to fail in proclaiming the wisdom and glory of God?

DISCUSSION 2: The Cosmic Audience Watches

1. Who is the audience we see witnessing the wisdom of God through the church? What does the nature of this audience say about the importance of the church?
2. How should this picture of the church affect the way we view our regular Sunday morning gathering?
3. What are some obstacles that keep people from seeing the church as a place where God's wisdom and glory are displayed?
4. What are some practical ways we help one another remember that we are a community that is part of a larger story?

RESOURCES:

- Dever, Mark (2007). *What is a healthy church?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.
- DeYoung, K., & Gilbert, G. (2011). *What is the mission of the church?: Making sense of social justice, shalom, and the Great Commission.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway.