



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### The Mystery Revealed - James Junior

10/27/2024

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
  - *What is something that you find a little bit mysterious? This could be anything from the mystery of your missing baseball cap to the thought of what angels are like. What makes it so mysterious?*
  - *If you were trying to plan a fall activity to do with someone you want to get to know but didn't seem to have much in common with, what would it be?*
  - *Think of a time where you felt particularly invited into something meaningful by someone. What did that person do to make you feel so included? What impact did that make on you?*

#### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
  - *Ephesians 3:1-11*
  - *Who are all the people mentioned in this passage? What have they done/are they doing? What are their roles?*
    - *(Paul, Gentiles, Holy Spirit, Jesus, people in other generations, Israel, rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, etc)*
  - *What mystery is Paul referring to in verse 4 when he says "The mystery of Jesus Christ?"*
  - *In verse 6 it says "through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus".*
    - *What does this passage reveal about this mystery? How long had God had this mystery in the works?*
    - *How do you think this news would be received by the Jews? Why?*
    - *How do you think the Gentiles would have received it? Why?*



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- *What is the significance of this news given the history between the two people groups?*
- *What do you think the interactions between the Jews and Gentiles might have been like before this news? What about after?*
- *Why do you think God may have chosen this specific time to reveal this mystery?*

#### *Helpful context:*

- *Jews = God's chosen people.*
- *Gentiles = Not Jews.*
- *The word that he uses here for mystery is μυστήριον (mystērion) - Mystery or Sacred Secret*

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
  - *In verse 6 it says "through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus".*
    - *What are the implications of this verse on a global scale of God's heart for the nations and how we view them?*
    - *Let's zoom in. How does it affect how we live with other Christians of other cultures and ethnicities in our Whatcom community?*
    - *What impact does this verse have on how we go about being a part of Hillcrest church and small group?*

#### Took - Personal Application



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- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
  - *Why is this passage such good news for us given that most if not all of us are Gentiles?*
  - *What will unity cost us?*
    - *It cost Jesus His life, It cost Paul imprisonment. What about us?*
  - *Where is there division amongst us?*
    - *Where might God be inviting us to notice and respond to it?*
  - *Who might it be hard for you to envision being in the kingdom of God with?*
  - *What would it look like to walk in unity with these people we differ from?*
  
- *Self reflection question you could have the group think on...*
  - *Who might God be inviting you to truly consider to be part of His family?*

Time of Prayer