



CURRENT

session page

The Mystery of Ministry

Ephesians 3:1-12 | Session 10.01

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

Context

Review together a list of the best mysteries of 2017, such as [this one](#) or [this one](#) and ask:

- Which of these novels have you read and what did you think of it when you read it?
- If all you had to go on was the descriptions given here, to which of these books might you most or least be drawn and why?
- What makes for a good mystery?
- At what points do you think faith might be a mystery, and how does feeling like that affect your faith?

Content

Read [Ephesians 3:1-12](#), and watch the Bible Background Video for this session.

Ask:

- What are some of the more “mysterious ways” through which you’ve seen God working over the years, and how have you been affected by such things?
- What do you make of the assertion that Paul was a prisoner for the sake of the gentiles?
- If God’s grace has always existed, why was it kept a mystery until Paul came along?
- What difference does it make that Paul talks about “eternal purpose” in verse 11, rather than “eternal plan?”
- To what do you feel most strongly called as a result of your faith, and how did you come to know this?

Closure

Share [this article about the Rohingya](#) and remind the group of some of its key points:

- The Rohingya are a persecuted minority who no country will take in.
- The Pope was under quite a bit of pressure to not even say the word “Rohingya” on his trip, yet went beyond that to even meet with them.
- Being recognized as people is seen as a great victory for the Rohingya.
- The Pope publicly stated "The presence of God today is also called Rohingya"

Ask:

- What have you heard of these people before now?
- How do you feel about this story and why?
- What do you make of the Pope’s statement that "The presence of God today is also called Rohingya?"
- Of what other persecuted people groups are you aware, and why are they being persecuted?

- While today's scripture reveals a "mystery" that God might not prefer one group of people to another, why do you think we still do that?
- Since Christians are, supposedly, party to the mystery of "inclusion" before God, how might we better practice it this year?

Close with a prayer.