



MIND  
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.
- 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](http://faithelement.net).

### Context

Begin by asking:

- When have you experienced a "calling" from God?
- How did you know it was from God?
- Some people believe that a calling from God must be difficult and life-draining. Jesus did tell us, after all, to "take up our cross." Frederick Buechner has famously written that your calling is "where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need." What do you think?

## Content

Read [Ephesians 3:1-12](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What is the “reason” Paul begins with in 3:1?
- Paul calls himself a “prisoner of Christ” (3:1), but he is literally a prisoner as he’s writing. How does this fact add weight to what Paul’s about to say?
- What has Paul been put in charge of, according to verses 2-3, and what is he to do with it?
- Given that he has been through things like beatings, prison, and shipwrecks as he followed his calling, why do you think Paul speaks of the call as if it is a privilege, rather than a burden?
- It’s clear from Paul’s description that he did not seek this – God played the active role in pursuing and calling Paul. Why does this matter in Paul’s argument?
- By downplaying his own role, what is Paul saying about God’s power and the importance of the message?
- What is the “mystery” Paul speaks of in verses 4-6 and 9-10?
- Why do you think he refers to this information as a “mystery,” and why do you think God chose to keep this plan hidden for so long?

## Closure

Continue by asking:

- Since God calls each of us to follow and to serve, what is our calling as people who have chosen to follow Jesus?
- What specific calling(s) do you feel you have received?
- What gifts has God given to you, and what does God call you to do with them?
- When have you encountered times when someone wasn’t ready to hear the News that sounded so good to you?
- How might Paul’s example encourage us to carry on in our calling, even when it’s difficult?

Close with prayer.

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