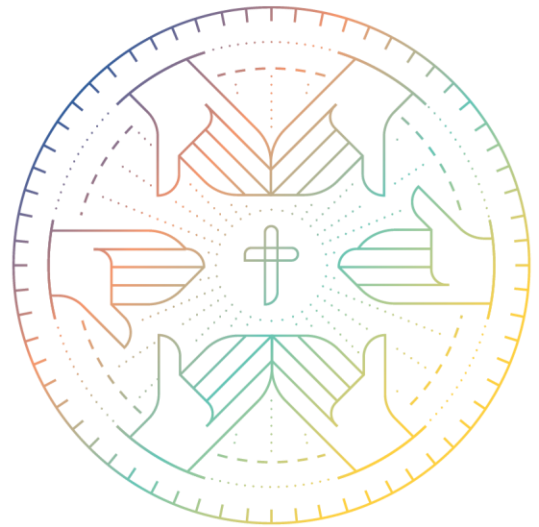


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

Reminder Easter will be a standalone message and the second part of Ephesians will resume on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to invite a friend to come on easter and to join your small group. Also, don't forget to register and attend on Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. You can register on the website.

Also, don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

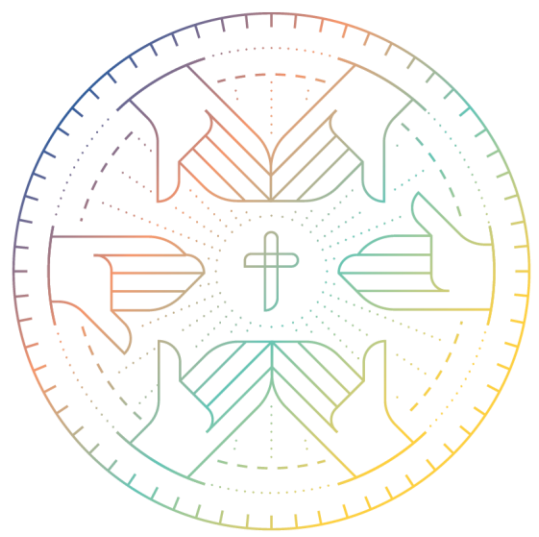
If you found buried treasure in your backyard, what would be your first course of action?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Paul wrote this letter while a prisoner in Rome. He was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel in Jewish synagogues and giving testimony of how he came to Christ. You can see Acts 21:27-36 and Acts 22. Within chapter three we see that he begins with a detour from praying to talk about the mystery of the Gospel.

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## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Ephesians 3:1-9. What sticks out to you about the Mystery that was made known to Paul?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[It's the mystery of Christ. It was not made known to other generations in the way it is known now. It has been revealed by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets. Through the gospel, the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body.]*

2. **Have you ever considered the fact that like Paul you are a steward of God's grace? Are you being a good or bad steward of the grace that you have received and are commanded to extend to others? Why?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Once we're called and placed into the body of Jesus Christ, the stewardship that is required of us is not a result of our own power or abilities. The strength, inspiration and growth in the management of our lives must come from God through the Holy Spirit in us; otherwise, our labor is in vain and the growth in stewardship is self-righteous human growth. Accordingly, we must always remember the sole source of our strength in pleasing God (Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 15:10)]*

3. **Read Ephesians 3:13, and Romans 8:18. Paul is writing this letter while in prison for sharing the mystery of the Gospel. What helps you to serve the Lord when it is inconvenient, awkward, or painful for you?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Finding perspective is important. It can be hard for us to look beyond the momentary feelings we are experiencing. Having a long view and where we find our hope in Christ reminds us that it is external to our feelings and desires. Paul says it this way, For I consider that sufferings of this present time not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18]*

## APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

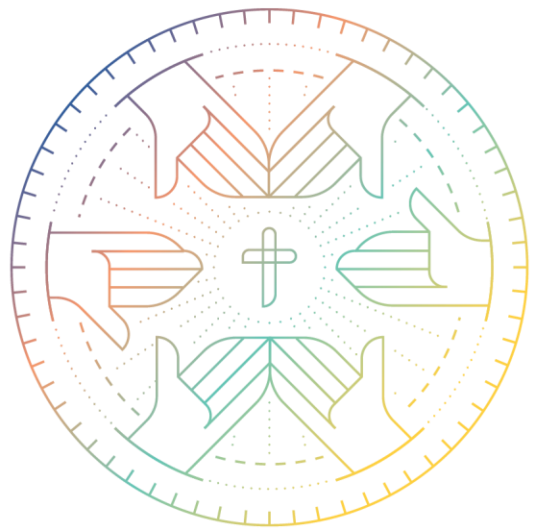
1. **According to verse 12, Paul says that believers have "boldness and access with confidence." How confident do you feel about sharing your faith?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Easter is coming up in three weeks. This is a great opportunity to identify and invite someone who needs to hear this truth to one of those services. If you can't think of anyone begin praying that God would lay*

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*someone on your heart to ask.]*

## **2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 and James 1:2-4. Do you feel like you're suffering and/or brokenness means God will use you less?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Though we won't always know why we are suffering, we do know that we can find comfort in the midst of our suffering in Christ. At Fairhaven, we talk about how we all have a story. God wants to use our circumstances to point others to Him.]*

## **3. Paul lists five key truths about the Mystery of the Gospel in Ephesians 3:**

- 1. God's plans of redemption will not be geopolitical forces verses (3:1-3),**
- 2. Jesus is at the center of this plan verses (3:4-6)**
- 3. No one is barred from participation through faith verses (3:7-8, 4).**
- 4. Do not fear evil for God is wiser/in control (3:8-10)**
- 5. Suffering can accomplish God's purpose (3:11-13).**

**Which truth do you need to hear most this week? Why?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Encourage your group to write down the truth they most need to hear and spend some time reflecting on it this week.]*

## **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for revealing the mystery of your will. We are humbled to be included in your plan for redemption. This week may we have confidence in who we are in you as we reflect on what you have done for us. Thank you that we can find hope and rest knowing that you are in control. As we enter into Holy week next week may we spend some time this week reflecting on what you have done for us. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.