

## **Empowered by Jesus for today**

### **Ephesians 3:1-21**

People love a good mystery. Have you got a book or movie to recommend?

### **God's mystery revealed**

Paul insists the mystery is solved, but first he interrupts his own prayer.

What is the mystery?

Why should we believe Paul? What qualifies Paul to speak for God?

What is Paul's job? v2, v7-9

### **Freedom and confidence to approach God (v12)**

Through the gospel we are all included, all members of God's family, together one body, and sharers in the promise in Christ. What is the promise (the gospel) we have in Christ Jesus according to verse 12?

Do you approach God with freedom and confidence?

### **Sharing God's mystery**

But we are much more than just recipients of this good news. According to v10-11 what are we?

What are the implications for us?

We need to be inclusive of everyone: the least lovely, the most lost, the most understood. Churches that express this vision, this gospel plan, are the churches that display the manifold wisdom of God. Is this our church? Is everyone truly welcome here?

If God's purpose is to bring all people together under Christ in the local church, how are we prioritising this, and working towards this goal? And, how does the prayer life of our church reflect this priority?

Does this make you uncomfortable?

### **Paul's prayer for the church**

What does Paul pray for? Why does he pray like this?

Finish by praying this prayer for each other and our church.