
TLC Home Group Expectations

- **Please start and end on time.** If you'd like to provide an atmosphere of fellowship, it's better that you provide this at the end to allow people who have to leave the opportunity to do so.
 - **Allow silence.** Allow room for others to contemplate and even feel uncomfortable when asking someone to read, within group prayer, or when throwing out a question. Please don't rush in just to fill the space. Allow God to do what only He can.
 - **When sharing, make it about you and what God is revealing about you and or Him.** Please allow room for others to share (don't dominate).
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“THROUGH THE WORKING OF HIS POWER”
Ephesians 3:1-13

This passage is a **chiasm**: a literary tool to **highlight what's at the center...**

Idea A (v. 1)
 Idea B (v. 2-3)
 Idea C (v. 5)
 Idea D (v. 6)
 Idea E (v. 7a)
 ****Idea F (v. 7b-8a)** [the main focus]**
 Idea E again (v. 8b)
 Idea D again (v. 8b)
 Idea C again (v. 9)
 Idea B again (v. 10-12)
 Idea A again (v. 13)

Let's walk through this chiasm...

Idea A: **Suffering on behalf of someone else.** Read Eph 3:1 and 3:13.
Have someone in your group read Matthew 5:10-12

- Are you excited to **suffer** for Jesus, whether in **smaller ways** (fighting sin/killing the flesh, changing your habits/entertainment/daily rhythms) or **bigger things** (losing friends/jobs, potential physical persecution)?
- In what areas of your life have you seen/experienced this?
- What areas of life could you press further into, to experience more of what Jesus promises?

Idea B: **God revealing/making things known.** Read Eph 3:2-3 and 3:10-12.

Sometimes God does reveal things to us about our past experiences: why we experienced what we did, how He worked in it, how He made you more steadfast through it, etc...

- How can you look back and **clearly see God's faithfulness** in harder times in your life, that you couldn't see in the moment?

Idea C: **God hiding/not making things known.** Read Eph 3:5 and 3:9.

Sometimes God does not reveal everything we want to know about our past experiences right away (or ever)...

- How much peace do you have with **the unknown** (past, present, or future)? How does this reflect your level of trust in God?

Idea D: **What is revealed: Gentiles are included with Christ.** Read Eph. 3:6 and 3:8b.

Biblical hospitality is "love of strangers." God has done this with us.

- How quick are you to welcome **new people** into your life?

Idea E: **God's gift of grace to Paul: he's tasked to preach what is revealed.** Read Eph. 3:7a and 3:8b.

- Do you see Christian leadership as a "**gift** of God's grace" or a burden you're scared of?

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- TLC and Cape May County have countless places that need your help. Where could you **eagerly** enter (or move deeper) into servant-leadership?

**** Idea F [main idea]: God's greatness and man's weakness**.** Read the following (Eph. 3:7b-8a): "...through the working of his power. Although I am the least of all the Lord's people..."

Read Gen. 1:27-31. Notice all that God gives to mankind to show their dependence, and how this **dependence on God is "very good."**

- Do you see humanity's natural, pre-fall, God-designed dependence on God as "very good"?
- How has God shown off in your life through your weaknesses?