

**1) The mystery is solved through the gospel. (v.1-6)**

What is the best mystery novel or movie you've ever read or seen?

Discuss this statement: *We want to keep God mysterious. God wants to make the mystery known.*

Paul was in prison for loving the Gentiles enough to give them the gospel? What price have you paid for living and proclaiming the gospel? Who do you love so much that you would rather go to prison than let them go to Hell?

Read v.4. How important is reading the scripture to gaining insight into the mysteries of God?

Does being right with God seem mysterious to you? Why does God seem like a mystery to most people?

How many ways have men invented in their attempt to be right with God? Name as many as you can.

Does your life demonstrate that you believe the gospel is for everyone?

**2) The mystery is displayed through the church. (v.7-10)**

Discuss this statement: *Every member of Christ is a minister. Some are entrusted with significant ministry. A few are called to vocational ministry.*

Why do you think Paul said he was the very least of the saints? Do you have an attitude that demonstrates you are more important than others in the church?

Discuss these statements: *We want to sit back and admire the gospel. God wants to us to go out and distribute the gospel.*

Discuss this statement: *We want God to get the work done without us. God wants to get the work done through us.*

How big a deal is the church?

Does your life demonstrate the following?

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- Your attendance at church is a big deal.
  - Your membership in church is a big deal.
  - Your serving and leading at church is a big deal.
  - Your giving to church is a big deal.
  - Your support of church planting is a big deal.

### 3) The mystery is accessed through our faith. (v.11-13)

Discuss these statements: *We want an individualized unique plan just for us. God has given one plan for everyone.*

Discuss this statement: *We think resistance makes us failures. God thinks resistance makes us glorious.*

Discuss this statement: *We think running away from difficulty is practical. God thinks facing toward difficulty is glorious.*

Have you lost heart because of the difficulty you are facing?

What glory do you see oozing from the lives of those in your group?

#### **Additional Scripture**

- Genesis 12
- Daniel 2:29
- Romans 16:25
- Matthew 8:10-12
- Acts 9:15
- Colossians 1:25-27
- 1Corinthians 15:9