

Trans-form Notes
Ephesians 3:1-13

Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

- ❖ Read, meditate on, and pray through Ephesians 3:1-13

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these statements or questions)

- ❖ Take some time to reflect and pray through this passage. Reflect on God's *mystery*, his plan, and his *manifold wisdom*.

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group or some friends)

- ❖ How does Paul describe God's secret plan?
- ❖ We've talked about the *invisible church* the last couple of weeks. Sunday we related it to the manifold wisdom of God and the riches in Christ. Spend some time together describing the exterior, the visible, qualities of our church. What are the invisible qualities of our church?
- ❖ What does it mean to approach God with freedom and confidence? How can these two characteristics change the prayer life of our community and us as individuals?¹
- ❖ Why do you think Paul describes his sufferings as his readers "glory" (v. 13)?
- ❖ How can our community explore the riches of Christ described by Paul?
- ❖ The fact that Paul is in prison is a sign that the Christian way is posing a threat to the rule of evil in the world. In what specific ways can we, as God's people, challenge the power of evil today in a way that provokes a reaction? (This reaction does not always have to be bad but often when coming up against evil, evil responds in defense.)

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ Begin to pray for how we as a church might make God's plan known. Begin to practice that vision in your life together, with our church, your friends, and your neighbors.
- ❖ We are considering changing the words that represent our *transformation process*. The words are only important in helping us to articulate and practice things that help grow in maturity. *Restore, Love, and Serve* is our current language. Two passages that I believe are helpful are John 15:1-17 and Micah 6:8. Spend some time in prayer, meditation, and study as we begin to discern together the ways God is seeking to disciple us. Look for the things God does and look what he requires of us. Spend some moments each time you are gathered to pray and discuss this.
- ❖ Spend some time together as a group or with a couple of other people in the last questions. Think of some tangible things you can do. One way is to be involved in SOLFUL this summer. You can sign up here: http://fullertonact.com/?page_id=135

¹ Wright, NT *Ephesians: 11 Studies for Individuals and Groups* IVP 2009 pg. 31