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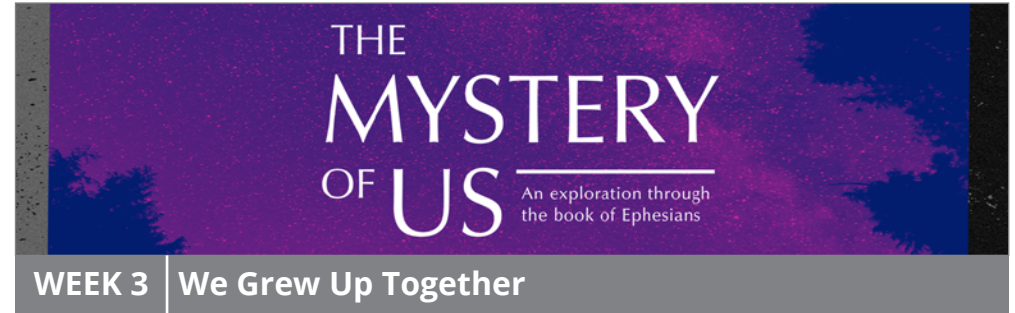
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### PRAYER

Lord of all, life is a journey full of stumbling blocks and challenges. With each hurdle, there is growth. With each setback, a valuable lesson. Lord, I ask that you give me the wisdom and presence of mind to learn from my mistakes and pitfalls. Help me to approach these things with maturity, so that I can be closer to you. Amen.

### WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

What is something that has shifted in your thinking from when you were younger?

### NOTES

## WORD

<sup>6</sup> And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. . .

<sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

<sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. . .

### EPHESIANS 3:6-21

<sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

### EPHESIANS 4:11-16

"Ye sinners who have not yet tasted of his grace, I think I might almost urge you to say 'Amen,' for if you have not yet obtained mercy, he is able to give it you. You have come here this morning thirsty like Hagar, and God sees you. You are searching for a little water to fill your bottle. See, yonder is a well, a well which flows freely. Drink of it, drink and live, and say 'Amen,' as you bless the Lord who looks on you in love. Perhaps you came here like Saul seeking your father's asses, or some such trifles. Behold, he gives you a kingdom— he gives you more than you ask or think— freely he gives it according to the riches of his grace. Accept it, and then say, 'Amen.' Oh, with one heart and one soul let all of you that have been redeemed from death and hell, or even hope to be so, join in this ascription,

"Now to the Lord, whose power can do  
More than our thoughts or wishes know,  
Be everlasting honour done,  
By ail the church, through Christ his Son."

### - Charles Spurgeon on Ephesians 3

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your connectivity with others who follow Jesus? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Why do you think Paul, the writer of this letter, pays so much attention to unity and love in the Spirit in the church at Ephesus? Do you think this is important for Christians in churches in today's day in age? Why or why not?
3. God is able to do far beyond our imagination. What might limit him from doing so in our lives today? What would life look like if these limits came off?
4. Do you mix and fellowship with people from other ethnicities and cultures? Why or why not?
5. If you are not yet a follower of God our Father, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life, and as the Father who loves you? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*