

Imagine

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Ephesians 3:14-21

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Welcome our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell



Our speaker today and continuing forward is our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell. He comes to us from Camp of the Woods, a Christian resort and retreat center in upstate New York. Kirk served there the

past three years as the Director of Staff Ministries and the LIFT Associate Director, a discipleship program held at the camp during spring and fall semesters. LIFT stands for Leaders in Further Training.

Kirk holds a Th.M. in pastoral ministries from Dallas Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to New York, he served in church ministry for eight years as a Family Pastor and before that as a Children's Pastor. Kirk and his wife, Laura, met while attending Texas A&M University. Laura has served alongside Kirk in each of his ministry positions, teaching women's Bible study, leading children's worship, and most recently, mentoring the young women in the LIFT program. Kirk and Laura have been married for 15 years and have two boys, Spencer (13) and Sean (11). They enjoy spending time in the outdoors, playing Settlers of Catan, and watching Aggie football. Please be sure to take the opportunity to give them a very warm welcome.

And his family.....



① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Ephesians 3:1-21 (NET)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

³ that by revelation the divine secret was made known to me, as I wrote before briefly.

⁴ When reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into this secret of Christ.

⁵ Now this secret was not disclosed to people in former generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit,

⁶ namely, that through the gospel the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the exercise of his power.

⁸ To me—less than the least of all the saints—this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ

⁹ and to enlighten everyone about God's secret plan—a secret that has been hidden for ages in God who has created all things.

¹⁰ The purpose of this enlightenment is that through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God should now be disclosed to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms.

¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access to God because of Christ's faithfulness.

¹³ For this reason I ask you not to lose heart because of what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,

¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on the earth is named.

¹⁶ I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person,

¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

¹⁹ and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think,

²¹ to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Why does Paul pray for the church in Ephesus ?
2. According to verse 10 of Chapter 3, what is the purpose of God enlightening us to know of His grace?
3. Have you ever experienced God doing far more than you asked?
4. When is it hardest to believe that God can do more than we ask?
5. Why does God sometimes chose to do more than we ask and sometimes does not do any of what we ask?
6. In light of verse 3:20 how should we pray?
7. What important aspect does 3:21 add?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
