

UNITY SERIES 2026



Merge Group Questions #3

Ephesians 3:1-13: Immeasurably More! (Merge Group #3)

For the next four weeks we will be basing our teaching on the very word of God. We will have available a resource for you if you choose to want a copy. (You will see that below) You also as a facilitator may have other resources you want to use as you work through this series so please feel free to use those and please contact Yves Gerard and Caroline Tremblay if you need any assistance. Here is their contact information:
confusius2016@hotmail.com / tremblaycaroline@hotmail.com

Along with that, this year, we as a merge group leadership wanted to give some consistent shape with our unity series for our church. We thought that it would be good, as you gather in your groups, to be more interactive and participatory to create movement.

Below you will find a format that will help you create movement as merge group hosts and facilitators. Please feel free to add to what we have here and enjoy the time spent with your group as you gather.

Please allow the Holy Spirit to use these times as you do life together weekly. Our heart as a leadership is to help each of you grow in your life as a Christ follower as we move people through our Four Chair disciple making process.

We will be praying for you as you study and facilitate these next four weeks under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May God richly bless you as you serve him in this way.

Merge Group Guide

The Merge Group guide below is based on Sunday's teaching for our new church UNITY series called... **Immeasurably More!** from the book of Ephesians. As your merge group gathers, use this guide below to give shape to your time together.

Begin by Practicing the Lord's Supper Together (5 minutes)

Begin your night by partaking of the bread and the cup together. Have each person bring their own Communion elements or provide elements for the group. To facilitate your time, you can either ask a member of your Merge Group to come ready with a short prayer, scripture reading, or assign someone to read the Apostles Creed we've provided below.

For those of you that may not be familiar with the Apostles Creed, it is a proclamation of faith that has been recited throughout the years and has often been used as an act of worship and reflection prior to receiving the Lord's Supper. (We have used it often within our own church family Sunday gatherings) It is a proclamation of what we as Christ followers believe. After reading this ancient creed (aloud), spend a moment in silence before continuing:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church (universal Christian church), the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHECK-IN (10 MINUTES)

As we focus on this series, we want to continue to create space for checking in on each other but doing so in a shorter amount of time. Take a few minutes to do a whole person check-in (emotional, spiritual, physical) with your merge group, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- How did you experience the Grace of Jesus in your life last week? Who or what are you praying for this coming week?

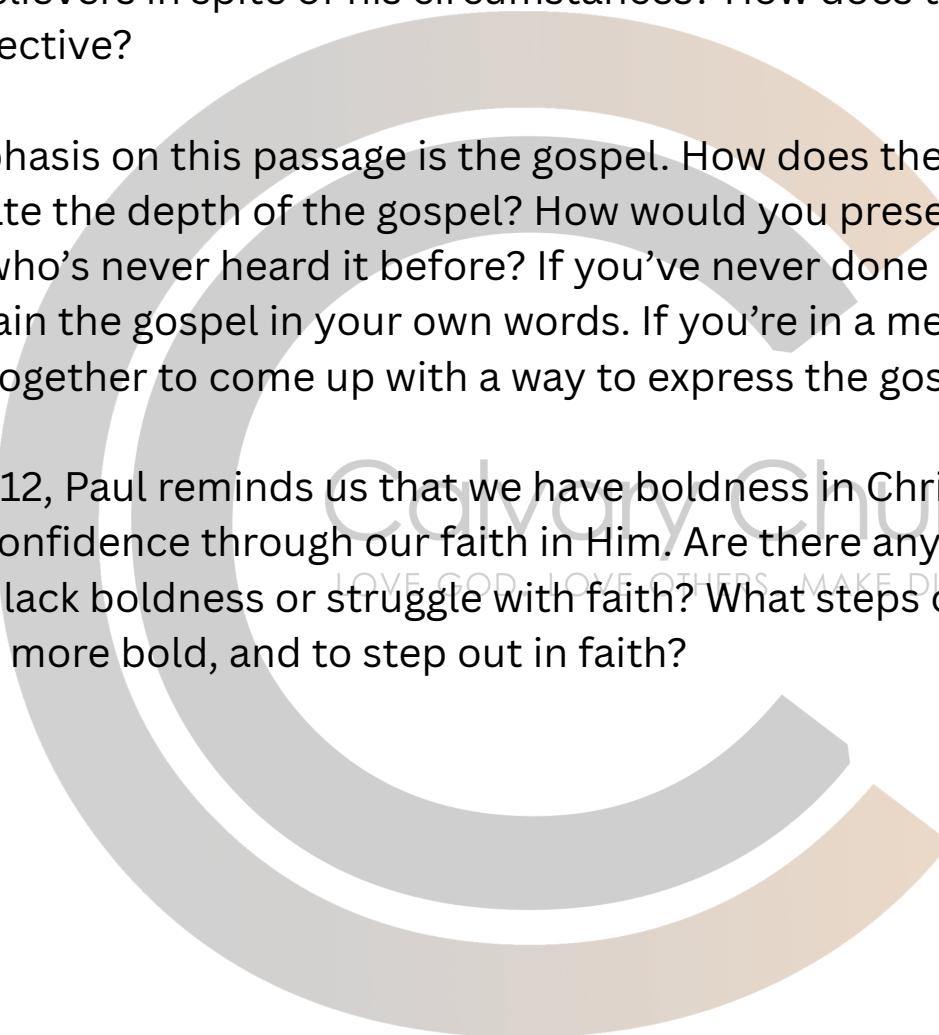
If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

QUESTIONS (20 Minutes)

1. Paul starts this passage with the phrase, “For this reason, I Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles ...” implying that what was just said previously should cause something to happen. But he then goes off on a tangent for this entire passage to add depth to it. What is he referring to as the reason that he’s about to say something, why is it so important, and what does this lead him to?

2. It is hard for us to understand why God would keep some things hidden from us. We live in a world that encourages understanding and where knowledge is easy to come by. What does the fact that God has kept things hidden tell us about God? And what does that say about us? How does this affect the way you approach God?

3. How does the revelation that Gentiles are “fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise” affect your understanding of the gospel? How would this have affected the perspective of the Jewish believers at the time Paul wrote this letter?



4. Paul begins this passage by revealing that he is currently imprisoned, and ends by encouraging the readers “not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you,” (v.13). How is Paul able to be such an encouragement to other believers in spite of his circumstances? How does that challenge your own perspective?

5. The emphasis on this passage is the gospel. How does the global Church demonstrate the depth of the gospel? How would you present the gospel to someone who’s never heard it before? If you’ve never done this before, simply try to explain the gospel in your own words. If you’re in a merge group, maybe take time together to come up with a way to express the gospel clearly.

6. In verse 12, Paul reminds us that we have boldness in Christ, and access to Him with confidence through our faith in Him. Are there any areas in your life where you lack boldness or struggle with faith? What steps can you take this week to be more bold, and to step out in faith?

In this last part of your evening, I wanted to direct your attention to a book I came across by Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson.(brothers) It is called B.L.E.S.S.. 5 Everyday Ways To Love Your Neighbour And Change The World. In this book they outline what you see here as a starting point to affect the lives of people around you and the world as you end your night in prayer and interaction.

Our goal as a church OF merge groups, is to move groups to loving their neighbours and changing their world. I will have these books available for you as a facilitator if you want to have a copy for your personal use as you lead people through this part of your gathering.

Missionary Practice For The Week Ahead: BLESS (10 Minutes)

▷ B.L.E.S.S.

• (B)egin with Prayer:

- Pray for the people in your life and the places that you're in.
- People: Who do you live, work and play with that is far from God? Pray that God would create spiritual curiosity in them, and then spend time with them.
- Places:
- Where does pain exist here? Pray for healing.
- Who makes the decisions here? Pray for integrity.
- Who throws parties here? Pray for community.
- Where are the pennies spent here? Pray for provision.

• (L)isten:

- Listen to and discover the needs of others and for the places where God is at work.
- Before you can help others find Jesus, you need to listen to them first - their hopes, pains, challenges and dreams. In your interactions with others today, take the posture of a learner. Lay down assumptions and practice being present in conversations.

• (E)at:

- Share meals, drink coffee, and spend time with people in your life that don't yet know Jesus.
- Who can you eat with (or have coffee with) that is far from God? A co-worker over lunch? A neighbour during the day? A friend or family member over the weekend?
- Is there a place that you regularly visit (coffee shop, gym, etc.)? Ask God to grant you opportunities to eat with people.

• (S)erve:

- Who can you serve this week? Who do you know that has a practical need? Ask them how you can help.
- Before jumping into serving, have you taken the time to pray for, listen to and eat with these people? Doing these things first helps you discover the way that you really need to serve them.

• (S)tory:

- Share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in your life with others.
- Start by sharing how God has blessed you and made a difference in your life.
- Share your story in such a way that demonstrates that Jesus is also at work in their life.

Don't feel like you have to tell your life story at once. Think "bite-size" stories.

Prayer (10 Minutes)

Spend a few minutes praying for God's grace over each other, that we might become a people who surrender our lives to Jesus, and that there might be a sweeping renewal of the Holy Spirit in our city of St. Catharines and the Niagara Region. Ask that God would stir up within us a desire to be with him in prayer and to serve him, one another, and our neighbour in love.

Calvary Church

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES.