

Get a Life!

Ephesians

Mystery
No
More

Lesson Five

Get a Life!

Page 2 of 4, Lesson Five

Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Mystery No More

Lesson Goal: To show students that God has revealed the mystery of our relationship with Him.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:9, 10; Colossians 1:15-20

One of the favorite words of the Apostle Paul was “mystery.” He is talking about something that was a secret in the past, but is no longer a secret. It remains a secret only to those who are not aware of what God did when He sent Jesus into the world.

Think of it this way. Denzel comes to a room where there is a television. He has never seen a TV before. Two people are speaking to one another on the TV screen. Denzel hears the people talking behind the glass and wonders why they are back there, not out in the room with the others present. It is a mystery to him. Later, someone explains to Denzel that those people are hundreds of miles away and that a camera is taking their picture and it is being sent through the air to the television set. Though he doesn't understand it all, the mystery is solved. The secret of how and why the people were trapped behind the glass is a mystery no more.

Ephesians tells us that there was a time when God's plan was a mystery, a secret. God went through a lot with humans. He created perfect humans and they rebelled. There were those who had not fully understood His purpose, but had in faith followed His will for their lives. Think of Noah: God had told him to build an ark because there was going to be a flood. Noah knew that there had never even been any rain, but He believed God and began to build a big boat that would later save him and his family. Think of Isaiah: He didn't know where God would lead him, but he said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

Paul is saying that we now know what God's mystery plan is. He is going to make Christ the ruler over all things on earth and in Heaven. We said in our last lesson that God provides the believer with wisdom and insight. That allows us to see, understand and apply God's love, evident in Jesus' death, to our lives. God is showing us that Jesus is the perfect Savior and unifier. He can bring humans together in harmony and peace.

Ephesians tells us that God has revealed this mystery with pleasure. It pleases God to let us in on the mystery that had been puzzling to humans from the beginning. Many folks, who lived before Jesus came to earth, knew that God was real and that He wanted to have a personal relationship with them. Many of them trusted Him, though they didn't understand everything, believing He was willing to be present in their lives.

Let's imagine that Marcus and Kyle had a plan to form a club. They wanted to get people together to do good

Get a Life!

Page 3 of 4, Lesson Five

Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Mystery No More

things for people who were in trouble. They didn't want to tell their whole plan until they had some friends who were willing to join them. So, they began to invite friends to become part of their club. Some did because they trusted Marcus and Kyle. However some didn't. They didn't understand the concept. They didn't trust Marcus and Kyle. As time went by, it was decided that the true and complete purpose of the club should be revealed. So, now the invitation to join included exactly how the club was going to work.

When God revealed Himself to the people of Israel, in the Old Testament, He gave them enough information that they could understand who He was and that they could have a faith relationship with Him. When Jesus came, all became completely clear. Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father." John 14:9

So now Paul is saying that what humans couldn't fully understand before, they can now know and believe. Mystery No More! God fully revealed Himself in Jesus, and He gives us the wisdom and understanding to know that He is going to "bring all things in Heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ." That means that when we believe in Jesus, as our Savior and Lord, we become part of God's plan and we participate in His purpose to make Jesus the ruler over all things. The Bible says, "...all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of His death, His blood that poured down from the Cross." Colossians 1:20 *The Message*

You might say that God's "secret plan" is to bring all things back into perfect relationship with Jesus as they were when Jesus created them. Jesus made everything. John 1:3. Everything was under His power and in perfect harmony with Him. When humans sinned, Jesus could not be the ruler over imperfection. And, since God's intent all along has been to bring back that perfect relationship, Jesus made it possible with His sacrifice on the cross. He did it, and that mystery is no more.

Memory Verse: "And He made known to us the mystery of His will...to bring all things in Heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ." Ephesians 1:9, 10

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Student Worksheet

Get a Life!

Page 4 of 4, Lesson Five

Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Mystery No More

Memory Verse: “And He made known to us the mystery of His will...to bring all things in Heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.” Ephesians 1:9, 10

>One of the favorite words of the Apostle Paul was “_____.”

>He is talking about something that was a _____ in the past, but is no longer a _____.

>There are those who had not fully understood His _____, but had in _____ followed His _____ for their lives

>Many folks, who lived before Jesus came to earth, knew that God was _____ and that He wanted to have a _____ relationship with them.

>God fully revealed Himself in _____, and He gives us the wisdom and understanding to _____ that He is going to “bring all things in _____ and on _____ together under one head, even Christ.”

<That means that when we believe in Jesus, as our _____ and _____, we become part of God’s plan, and we participate in His purpose to make Jesus the _____ over all things.

>You might say that God’s “secret plan” is to bring _____ back into perfect relationship with Jesus as they were when Jesus _____ them.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.