

MYSTERY

LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

LOVE, Ephesians 3:14–21 December 9, 2018

CONNECT

1. Other than your family, what are some of the most important relationships in your life right now? How did you first connect with them?

CELEBRATE

The Apostle Paul prays earnestly that the Gentile and Jewish believers making up the one body would be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in their inner selves. This power provides intimate communion with Christ so they could manifest His fullness in love for one another across ethnic lines.

2. What kinds of things might believers be tempted to think they need to be spiritually strong? In contrast, what does Paul indicate we need? How does greater spiritual strength in one's inner being strengthen every aspect of a person?
3. In verse 14, Paul refers to God as Father. Why would God want us to know that we have a heavenly father? Why is believing and accepting God as Father difficult for some people? Is it difficult for you? Why or why not?
4. When the gospel message was first shared in Judea, only Hebrews responded. Is our cultural uniqueness lost when Jesus becomes Savior and Lord of our life?
 - What responsibility do we have toward Christians in need? (See Acts 11:27–30, James 2:14–17 and Matthew 25:31–46.)
 - How much social action can we get involved in without becoming distracted from the task of spreading the good news?
5. Do you let differences cut you off from fellowship with others or from organizational expressions of our unity?
6. When you think about other believers throughout the world, how does it impact you that those brothers and sisters are one with you in Christ?
7. According to Paul, what results when the Spirit strengthens your inner being and Christ takes up permanent residence in your life? What "love" are we to be established in?
8. How does knowing you are and always will be God's beloved child make you more confident to do great things as you operate in the world?
9. In Ephesians 3:20–21 Paul is overwhelmed that God the Father is able to do way beyond what we can ask or imagine Him to do. Does this change the way you pray?

CONTRIBUTE

10. Which of the characteristics of God's family is most meaningful to you right now? Why? How does this understanding motivate you to share the gospel and add to that family?
11. Write down names of three people you could invite to the New Hope Church Christmas gatherings. Take time to pray for each one. Ask God to provide opportunities to invite them.

PRAY

Thank God that He is the perfect Father. Thank Him for all the benefits that come with being born again into His family. Pray for the boldness and motivation to extend the invitation to others to join the family of God.