

Cultivate Reflection Guide

Different: A Different Mystery
Pastor Matt Brown | October 22-23, 2022

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It can be hard to stand up for what's different, so if we want to live differently, we need to see life through a new lens. The apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a reminder and a challenge to us that we live differently because we belong to Jesus.

Our Reflection Guide is a tool to help you grow spiritually wise, relationally kind and emotionally healthy. Use it to start a REAL conversation in community or to cultivate God's word into your life through personal bible study. Choose the questions that most encourage you to reflect and respond to what we're learning. Pair it with your bible, a journal or any resource that helps you learn. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read: [Ephesians 3:1-20 ESV](#). Paul is one of the greatest ministers of the gospel, yet considered himself "the very least of all the saints." (v.8) But the same call placed on Paul's life, is placed on ours. We are ambassadors of the good news, called to share "the unsearchable riches of Christ." How does that calling energize you? If it doesn't, why not?

Reflect & Respond:

1. God has **invited us** into **His mysterious story**.

- [Read Psalm 145:7](#). What about this weekend's message inspired, encouraged or challenged you? This could be any point, verse or word from Pastor Matt that got your attention or got you thinking.
- Who could you tell about the way God spoke into your life this weekend? It may be your community group, your family, a friend, coworker or classmate. Go share the story of God's wonderful goodness – this could be as simple as a text or as sweet as an invitation to conversation over lunch.
- If you're reluctant or even unwilling to share, what is standing in your way? Count the cost. Is that obstacle worth more than what telling the story of God's goodness could accomplish?

2. We have an **important role** in God's story, but **opportunity is preceded by obedience**.

- [Read Ephesians 3:9 NLT](#). How have you seen your obedience to God [the way you follow, honor and obey Him] result in opportunity or blessings in your life?
- [Read Luke 8:17 NLT](#). In contrast, is there anywhere in your life in which the way you're living could be robbing you of a blessing? This could be sin, but don't ignore those more subtle and secret ways we choose to ignore God's wisdom, make excuses, or give ourselves permission to go our own way.

3. What we do in our role has **eternal significance** for others.

- We live in a culture that is anxious, worried and overly focused about things that won't last. Take inventory of your priorities, which are generally where you spend your most time. What are the things that matter most AND what are the things you're spending too much time focused on or worried about?
- [Ephesians 3:19 NLT](#). What could you begin doing today to build a legacy of faith for tomorrow? E.g., invest in others, share your faith, be in church, build up spiritual disciplines, model how to pray and worship for your kids, serve in the church, tithe with consistency, etc.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for inviting me into your story and reminding me that I have an important role to play. I confess, I've pursued things that have distracted me, and I've set priorities that didn't honor the calling you've placed on my life. Renew my perspective and align my heart with yours. I want to live differently, fully awake to what you're doing in me and around me. Give me the courage to take risks in my faith that advance your kingdom. Amen.

Cultivate Community

Community groups are where we share our lives and tell our stories. It's where we remind one another to live our purpose and keep our eyes on Jesus. If you're not in a community group yet, make this commitment today. Go to cultivate.sc/community to find a group or even learn what it takes to start one of your own.