For Sunday 15th November 2026

Passage: Ephesians 3.1-13

St Peter's
COLCHESTER

St Peter's Kids Resources

Welcome to the resources for St Peter's Kids.

Each Sunday, Seekers and Diggers will normally explore the same Bible passage or theme as the rest of the church, in ways that are right for their different ages.

Our hope is to help the children:

- engage seriously with the Bible;
- grasp one clear central truth;
- understand why it matters;
- respond appropriately to God;
- enjoy being together and build good relationships.

How to use these resources

These are resources, not a script. Please use your knowledge of the children and your own strengths as a leader, and feel free to adapt what is here. You certainly do not need to use everything suggested.

A simple, engaging conversation about the Bible can be far more valuable than an elaborate activity. The aim is always to help the children understand, remember and respond to God's word.

Seekers and Diggers

- Seekers – Reception to Year 2: keep things short, concrete and interactive, using repetition, movement, visual material and questions they can genuinely answer.
- Diggers – Years 3 to 6: give children real opportunities to read the Bible, notice things in the text, think, question, discuss and respond. Aim for material that stretches them without feeling childish.

What about craft?

Craft can be a great way to reinforce the Bible teaching or help children respond, but it is entirely optional. If you enjoy using craft and it genuinely helps the session, please do. If it does not, there is absolutely no need to include it.

Summary

- Paul explains the mystery God has now revealed: Gentiles share fully in God's promise through the gospel.
- God gave Paul a special ministry to tell people about the riches of Christ.
- Through the church, God makes his wisdom known. Paul's suffering does not mean God's purpose has failed.
- Key verse: Ephesians 3:6
- Aim: To help children see that God brings people from different backgrounds into his people through the gospel, and uses the church to show his wisdom.

Things to notice in the passage

- Paul begins, "For this reason", then pauses to explain his work and the mystery God has shown him. He returns to the prayer he began in verse 1 when he reaches verse 14.
- In the Bible, "mystery" does not mean a puzzle or secret knowledge for a few people. It means something God had not fully revealed before, but has now made known.
- The mystery is that Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and sharers in God's promise through the gospel. They are full members of God's people.
- Paul's ministry as an apostle is a gift of grace. He is called to tell Gentiles about the riches of Christ. His particular calling does not mean every Christian has the same role.
- In verse 10, God's wisdom is made known through the church, even to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. The church's existence shows that God's plan in Christ is greater than the divisions and powers that oppose him.
- Paul is writing from prison. His hardship does not mean God's work has failed; he encourages the Ephesians not to lose heart.

Possible approach for Seekers

A place at the table: Put out a few paper people or toy figures and a small table. Begin with some figures left outside the "party". Ask what it would be like to discover there was a place for them after all. Then bring them to the table.

Read Ephesians 3:4–10, or explain the main idea: God's plan is that people from different backgrounds who trust Jesus share the same promise and belong to his people.

Ask:

- What surprising thing had God shown Paul?
- Who can belong to Jesus' people?
- What could the church show people about God?
- How can we help someone know that they are welcome?

Keep returning to: **God brings people together through Jesus, and the church shows his wisdom.**

Possible approach for Diggers

Read Ephesians 3:1–13. Give the children three headings on a sheet of paper: **God's plan revealed, Paul's work by grace, God's wisdom shown through the church**. Ask them to find which verses belong under each heading.

Questions:

- What does Paul mean by "mystery" in this passage?
- What three things does verse 6 say Gentiles now share?
- How does Paul describe the ministry God gave him?
- What does verse 10 say God is making known through the church?
- Why does Paul tell the Ephesians not to lose heart over his suffering?
- What might people learn about God when people who are different belong together because of Jesus?

Encourage answers about grace, welcome, forgiveness and shared hope.

Connecting it with St Peter's

- The central point is belonging through the gospel. Children do not need to understand every detail of Paul's apostleship or the heavenly rulers to grasp that God's people include those who were once outsiders.
- Paul's particular calling was to preach Christ to the Gentiles. The wider principle is that Christian service is received by grace and directed towards others; it is not a way to earn importance.
- At St Peter's, the church's shared life can show God's welcome when we notice people, include them and help one another follow Jesus.

Possible activities

A surprise invitation: Put an invitation card in an envelope marked "God's plan". Let children guess what might be inside, then reveal a picture of a table with people from different backgrounds around it. Explain that Paul's "mystery" is God's revealed plan to include Gentiles through Christ.

Who belongs? Give simple character cards with different ages or backgrounds. Ask what the gospel says about who may belong to Jesus' people.

God's wisdom on display: Draw or build a picture of a church family made up of different people. Ask what it might show about Jesus to someone looking in.

A note for leaders

Keep the mystery specific: Gentiles share fully in God's promise through Christ. "The church shows God's wisdom" does not mean churches are perfect or impressive. Paul's apostolic role is particular; do not turn it into pressure on every child to speak publicly or persuade others. The "same body" phrase here is about full inclusion, not a return to the spiritual-gifts teaching from 1 Corinthians.

Prayer

- Thank God that people from every background can belong to Jesus.

- Thank him for people who teach us about Christ.
- Ask God to help our church show his welcome and wisdom.
- Pray for people who have not yet heard the good news about Jesus.