

# MYSTERY

DISCOVERING WHO GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE

## Who is the Bride of Christ?

### SUMMARY:

The people of God are referred to in many ways throughout Scripture—one of these is the Bride of Christ. When the Bible calls us the Bride of Christ, what does this mean? Ephesians 5:25-27 uses the imagery of marriage. Christ is described as the Bridegroom who shows sacrificial love for His bride, the Church. We receive His love and sacrifice; as a result, we become. We are without spot or wrinkle, blameless, since Jesus has taken our sin and clothed us with His righteousness. As a response to the love of Jesus, the Church is obedient to Him. When we think about our identity as the Bride of Christ, we can imagine ourselves as a bride who is awaiting her bridegroom with anticipation. Jesus has shown us great love, in response we give our faithfulness.

### QUESTIONS:

#### Upward

Read Ephesians 5:25. How did Jesus show His love for the Church? Why was this sacrifice necessary?

Read and reflect on Philippians 2:6-8. Take time to thank Jesus for His sacrificial and self-giving love. What comes to mind when you read these verses?

#### Inward

Read Ephesians 1:4. Why did Jesus choose us? What does it mean that we are now “holy and blameless”?

Spend time discussing the difference between our justification and our sanctification (being saved from the penalty of sin vs. being saved from the power of sin). Refer to Titus 3:5 as well.

*Justification: God has declared you to be righteous. He credits the righteousness of Jesus to us. This has to do with our standing before God.*

*Sanctification: The process of becoming more like Jesus, more holy. This has to do with our ongoing growth, discipleship. It continues as long as we live.*

#### Outward

The action step for this sermon was: Receive God’s love and serve one another. Discuss practical ways you can serve others this week.