



Small Groups and Home Study

Week of August 13th, 2017

Opening Prayer

A member of the group may open the time with prayer.

Focus on the Scripture : Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Read from more than one translation of the Bible.
2. Are there any notable differences between these translations?
3. If any, name the main people, locations, events, things that are mentioned in the reading.
4. What comes before or after this reading? Do you see a connection?

Questions for Group Discussion

1. Paul speaks to division that existed between Jews and Gentiles. How does he describe this division?
2. Why is there no longer division between Jews and Gentiles?
3. The Message translation reads: What do you notice in this translation of the text?
 - a. (Verses 14-15) The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.
4. What causes division today? Where are our walls, curtains, barriers that exist between people?
5. Where is reconciliation possible? Why is it possible?
6. How can we promote Christ's unity and speak against division and hatred?
7. What is the cost of standing up for Christ's message?
8. What is the cost of not standing up for Christ's message?
9. Does the church need to seek forgiveness from God? Why or why not?
10. Is Christ our peace?

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. What are my personal prejudices?
2. Do I need to seek forgiveness for my feelings and attitudes towards others?
3. Are we all children of God?
4. How can I let go of my personal prejudices and turn towards a heart of compassion?
5. What has Christ done in my Life? What is Christ doing now in my life?