



GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of June 24th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



UP: growing in relationship with God

IN: growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

OUT: growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

Get Started:

When did God's great love for you first become real to you? (Or share a more recent example of a time that you felt the love of God)



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Ephesians 2:11-21. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. Did you notice how many references to a physical body there are in these verses? What are they? Why do you think Paul keeps this passage rooted in images of a physical body?
2. What does Paul tell the Ephesians about their former situation in verses 11 and 12? Why do you think Paul brings this up?
3. In verse 14 Paul writes that Christ has broken the wall that had divided the Jews and the Gentiles. What were the elements of that wall? What kept them separate?
4. How has Christ broken the wall?
5. Re-read verses 15 and 16. Is it possible for one group to be reconciled to God without the other? Why or why not? Why wouldn't it be enough for God to reconcile only the Jews back to Himself?
6. In verses 19-22 Paul contrasts their old situation with the new. What are the qualities of the new life in Christ?
7. Consider the walls we build up and the divisions we create. We are pretty good at creating divisions and making it "us vs. them". What do we have to let go of to allow the walls of hostility to fall?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Does it make your life different when you think of yourself as part of a worshiping body that is a dwelling place for God? Explain your response.

Do you realize that this group is also a dwelling place for God? What difference does that make?

Spend some time praying for each other and thanking God for His presence in our group.



Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

Are there groups in our community who feel walled out by the church?

How could we, as a Life Group, reach out into one of these groups? [One thought—is there a restaurant or a gathering place for people who are outside the church where you could show up and, over time, get to know people?]