



PEACE! *Ephesians 2: 11-22*

Sugar Grove Church of Christ 11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups 2007

Connect: *Find out how everyone is doing; this will give you an opportunity to better know how to encourage and minister to each other.*

- ◆ If your group has guests or new members take some time to make sure everyone knows each other.
- ◆ What has been a high and low point in everyone's life in the last week?

Background

- ◆ Before Christ's coming, Gentiles and Jews kept apart from one another. Jews considered Gentiles beyond God's saving power and therefore without hope. Gentiles resented Jewish claims of their position of superiority based on their heritage. Christ revealed the total sinfulness of both Jews and Gentiles, and then he offered his salvation to both. Only Christ breaks down the walls of prejudice, reconciles all believers to God, and unifies us in one body..

Prepare:

- ◆ Have you ever had a time in your life that you were trying to break through a barrier and accomplish something important? i.e. accomplish a life goal, attract that special someone, solve a huge problem... Share that experience with the group. What was the barrier? How did it turn out?

Grow:

- ◆ Read Ephesians 2:11-12
 - Sin causes separation; it is a barrier between us and everything good.
 - Have you ever had a time in your life that you felt hopeless? What helped you get through that time?
 - Why would separation from God leave us without hope?
 - How has the hope that Christ brings us through his blood changed your life?

- ◆ Read Ephesians 2:13-18.
 - What is the peace that is being described in these verses?
 - All Christians stand on level ground before the cross of Christ: young and old, male and female, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, and black, white, and every other color. We are all sinners in need of salvation. Why is peace important when we are talking about the vast array of people that fill the earth? Can anything other than Jesus Christ bring peace?
 - Are your relationships with others characterized by the peace that Christ has brought to us? Why or Why not?
 - How does Christ's peace affect how we live our day to day in a multi-cultural world?

- ◆ Read Ephesians 2:19-22
 - A solid structure needs a firm foundation and a good cornerstone to hold everything up and keep it from falling. What is the 'structure' being built here? Why do the apostles, prophets, and Jesus Christ make a good foundation and cornerstone?
 - Each part of a building has to be aligned and work in concert with the foundation and the cornerstone? Is your life as a part of this 'structure' aligned with the cornerstone? Why or why not?
 - The church becomes a 'holy temple' because of the presence of God . Verse 22 tells us that God lives in the holy temple which is his church by the power of the Holy Spirit (*the Holy Spirit lives in us as individuals and collectively in us as the church*). What are some things we could do that would help the Holy Spirit live in this small group or that would keep the Holy Spirit from living in this small group?

Prayer:

- ◆ Spend a few moments having your group's prayer coordinator gather prayer requests from your group.
- ◆ Lift up your group's prayer requests and ask God to help us live a life transformed by his peace. *Consider inviting each person in the group to pray.*

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