

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 2:11-13

Discuss the Following Quote

Ever since the rebellion in Eden shattered the relationship between humans and God, people have found it difficult to coexist peacefully. Every marriage, family, church, community, and nation struggle to maintain harmony and peace. Humanity’s fallenness creates powerful feelings of alienation and suspicion, leading to prejudice, misunderstandings, disagreements, conflicts, and even outright war.

It was no different in Paul’s day. The early Church consisted of Jewish people who believed in Jesus. Yet they still struggled to overcome prejudice against the Gentiles, the non-Jews, who were also becoming Christians. Paul showed them that Christ is the Prince of Peace and the key to unity in the church. He alone can bring us into right relationship with God. He alone can shatter the walls of prejudice and malice that separate human beings. – **John MacArthur**

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Our Shame**
- **Our Separation**
- **Our Salvation**

I. Our Shame (Verse 11)

- It is part of sinful human nature to build protective barriers that shut out other people. Why is disunity and division, segregation and schism, so harmful to the church?
- What is significant about the first 2 words in verse 11?

- How is Eph. 2:1-10 foundational to unity and love?
- Are you a Jew or Gentile? How does that affect the way you respond to Eph. 2:11-22?

II. Our Separation (Verse 12)

- How did Paul describe the spiritual plight of the Gentiles, and in what ways did the Jews have an advantage?
- Without Christ, Paul says the Gentiles are also without citizenship, without a covenant, without hope, and without God. Is this true of unbelievers you know? If so, how?
- How is this even more true for whole “People Groups” that don’t have a church within their culture evangelizing them?

III. Our Salvation (Verse 13)

- How does Ephesians 2:11-13 mirror Ephesians 2:1-10 (especially verses 4 & 13)?
- What do people today mean by the word peace? How does God’s peace contrast with the way people refer to “peace” today?
- What does it mean to be reconciled to another person?
- Why is reconciliation needed between man and God?
- How is reconciliation with God, foundational to reconciliation with Man?
- Why is reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles significant?
- How aware are you of being an insider, a person who fully belongs and has been brought near? Why is that?
- What are you doing to help people be reconciled to God?

Two Application Points

- Why should Ephesians 2:11-13 inspire us to be involved with Cross-Cultural work (missions)?

- **Read & discuss Romans 10:14-15** in light of Ephesians 2:11-13

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

- What new insights does this passage add to the startling notion that in Christ everything changes?
- If Christ is the Great Reconciler, and we are His “ambassadors,” what does this mean? (What does an ambassador do?)
- What is the practical significance of the truth expressed in 2 Corinthians 5:17 for relational conflict in marriages, families, churches, and between races and nations?
- Why should our identity in Christ transcend all other ways we define ourselves?

***Leaders Cheat:** Do your best to not let the next question digress into a political discourse. If it does, feel free to move on quickly to the following question.*

- Have you seen a trend in our society to define people’s identities by how they have been a victim?
- How is finding your identity in Christ the opposite of victimhood identity? Compare and contrast how these two identities either promote unity or destroy unity within the church.
- How are you tempted to find your identity in being a victim? How can this temptation threaten your personal relationships?