

Small Group Study Guide, Week of September 1, 2024

Ephesians 2:11-22; "A New Family"

Q: What positive effect results from being saved by God's grace?

Big Idea: You who were once lost have now been adopted by Jesus into God's family.

Ice Breaker: Who is your closest relative that immigrated to the US? What did their new citizenship mean to them?

Dig:

1. Before Christ came, Jews and Gentiles remained separate, kept apart in the Temple courts by a "dividing wall" (v14). How did God deal with this situation through Christ's coming?
2. Paul uses three metaphors to describe the new relationship Jews and Gentiles have with God and each other in Christ. Describe how each metaphor helps us understand this new relationship. What implications do you see for us in the church today?

Apply:

3. What social/class/racial/other barriers affect the unity of the church in America today? In our own fellowship? What has been your role in maintaining those barriers? What is your role in destroying the barriers? What practical steps will you take to activate this scripture?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)