



PIECE *of* WORK

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

WEEK FOUR

One Big Family

Ephesians 2:11-22

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL · SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Tearing Down Walls

DAY 1

From Far to Near

READING · EPHESIANS 2:11–13

You were once far from God—separated, alienated, without hope. But God didn't wait for you to find your way home. Through Christ's blood, He closed the gap. The gospel is God's relentless pursuit of you. Like the father running to meet his prodigal son, God sprints toward you with open arms. No matter how far you've wandered or how broken you feel, you are not too distant for His grace. Jesus removed the distance between you and the Father. Today, receive this truth: God has already come near to you. Stop dragging your feet in shame and lift your head—your Father is running toward you with restoration, not condemnation.

REFLECTION

Where in your life are you still living as if you're far from God, when He has already brought you near? What would it look like to stop dragging your feet in shame and let your Father reach you today?

DAY 2

Jesus Is Our Peace

READING · EPHESIANS 2:14–16

Jesus doesn't merely bring peace—He IS our peace. He destroyed the walls of hostility that separated us from God and from one another. At the cross, His blood flowed vertically, reconciling us to God, and horizontally, reconciling us to each other. The same grace that saved you also calls you to extend forgiveness to others. This doesn't mean forgetting or removing boundaries, but it means releasing bitterness. What walls have you built between yourself and others? Pride? Hurt? Political differences? Generational grudges? Jesus demolished these barriers. The church should be the most unified place on earth because our identity in Christ is greater than our differences. Let His peace reign in your relationships today.

REFLECTION

What wall of hostility—pride, hurt, bitterness, a difference—has Jesus already torn down that you're still defending? Who is one person His peace is calling you to forgive?

Citizens of a New Kingdom

READING · EPHESIANS 2:19; PHILIPPIANS 3:20

You are no longer a stranger or alien—you are a citizen of God's kingdom. Citizenship means belonging, protection, and allegiance. Your primary identity isn't tied to nationality, political party, or family heritage; it's rooted in the kingdom of heaven. This new citizenship demands a new loyalty. When earthly divisions threaten to separate you from fellow believers, remember: you serve the same King. You share the same Savior. You belong to the same eternal family. What allegiances compete for your heart? What temporary identities have you elevated above your citizenship in Christ? Today, declare your true allegiance. Live as a citizen whose home is heaven, whose King is Jesus, and whose family transcends all earthly boundaries.

REFLECTION

What earthly identity or allegiance has been competing with your citizenship in Christ? How would this week look different if you lived first as a citizen of heaven?

Built Together as God's Temple

READING · EPHESIANS 2:20–22; 1 PETER 2:4–5

You are a living stone being built into God's temple. A pile of bricks has value, but no purpose until placed in the structure. Isolated, you cannot fulfill your design. God created you for community, for connection, for contributing to something greater than yourself. You weren't saved merely for individual salvation—you were saved into a family, to serve, to belong, and to grow alongside other believers. What walls of isolation have you built? Fear? Past hurt? Pride? Self-sufficiency? God is calling you to step into your purpose within His house. The church needs you in position, not on the sidelines. Stop living in isolation. Find your place in God's temple and watch Him use you.

REFLECTION

What wall of isolation have you built—fear, past hurt, self-sufficiency? Where is God inviting you to step off the sidelines and into your place in His house?

Stepping Over the Rubble

READING · ISAIAH 43:18–19; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Jesus has torn down the walls, but you must choose to step over the rubble. Acknowledging that a wall is gone is different from walking into freedom. What barriers in your life have been demolished by Christ's finished work, yet you still stand at the edge, afraid to cross? Hurt? Bitterness? Unforgiveness? Fear? The foundation stones of old walls may still be visible, but they no longer have power over you. God is doing a new thing. The enemy didn't build most of your walls—you did. Today, take responsibility and take action. Step over the debris of your past. Walk into the freedom, restoration, and purpose Christ purchased for you. Your new life awaits on the other side.

REFLECTION

*What barrier has Christ already demolished that you're still standing behind, afraid to cross?
What is one concrete step you can take today to walk into the freedom He purchased?*

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for coming near when I was far off and making me part of Your family. Jesus, You are my peace. Tear down the walls I've built, give me courage to step into freedom and forgiveness, and set me in my place among Your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One Big Family

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: What's your favorite TV show about family from any era? What made that show memorable to you?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's message moves through Ephesians 2:11-22 in three movements: Jesus removes the distance, closing the gap between us and God; Jesus reconciles the division, becoming our peace and destroying the walls between people; and Jesus builds a new family, making us citizens, household members, and living stones in God's temple. We weren't just saved from something—we were saved into something: one big family.

KEY SCRIPTURE · EPHESIANS 2:14, 19

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

- 1 The message noted that not everyone has positive feelings about the word “family.” How does understanding God as Father differ from our earthly family experiences?
- 2 What does it mean that “the gospel is God's pursuit of us” rather than us pursuing God? How does this change your perspective on your relationship with Him?
- 3 Paul wrote to a church divided between Jews and Gentiles. What are some modern-day “walls” that divide believers today?

Personal Reflection

- 1 Pastor Jay said, “Jesus didn't wait for us to come near to Him. Jesus came near to us.” When have you experienced God pursuing you when you were far from Him?
- 2 Consider this: “The same blood that reconciles us to God reconciles us to one another.” What walls do you need Jesus to tear down in your relationships?
- 3 What's the difference between forgetting what someone did and forgiving them? How can you have healthy boundaries while still extending forgiveness?

Going Deeper

- 1 The message emphasized that “church should be the most unified place on earth.” Why do you think churches often struggle with division? What prevents us from living as “one big family”?
- 2 Pastor Jay said, “You weren't saved to live in isolation... you were saved to serve, to belong, and to grow alongside other believers.” How does this challenge our individualistic view of salvation?
- 3 Consider the imagery of bricks sitting in a pile versus being built into a house. What does it look like for you to move from just “being saved” to being actively built into God's temple?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Jesus removes the distance** — His blood closes the gap between us and God.
- ✓ **Unity isn't sameness** — we can disagree and still be one in Christ.
- ✓ **Forgiveness is for you** — not just for the other person.
- ✓ **Identity over difference** — who we are in Christ is greater than what divides us.
- ✓ **Saved into something** — we're not just saved FROM sin, but INTO God's family.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Identify and step over. Name one wall in your life (hurt, pride, politics, race, bitterness, offense, fear), acknowledge that Jesus has already torn it down through His sacrifice, and step over the rubble by taking one concrete action toward reconciliation or freedom. Some ways to start:

Option 1 Forgive Someone

Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray for them by name this week.

Option 2 Reach Back Out

Is there a relationship you've avoided? Reach out with a text or a call.

Option 3 Check Your Heart

Is there a group of believers you've judged? Ask God to change your heart toward them.

Option 4 Get Connected

Is there a wall of pride keeping you isolated? Join a serving team or a small group.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- What specific wall did God reveal to you during this discussion?
- What is one step you will take this week to move toward reconciliation or unity?
- Who can you share this with to help keep you accountable?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Eyes to see the walls we've built that Jesus has already torn down.
- Courage to step over the rubble into freedom and reconciliation.
- Unity in the body of Christ across all dividing lines.
- Specific relationships that need healing.
- Hearts willing to forgive as we've been forgiven.

Jesus, thank You for tearing down the wall between us and God. Help us to tear down the walls between us and others. Show us where we've built barriers, and give us courage to step into the freedom and family You've created for us. Amen.

LEADER NOTES

- Be sensitive to those who may have difficult family backgrounds.
- Create a safe space for honest sharing about walls and divisions.
- Emphasize grace—we're all works in progress.
- Don't force anyone to share specifics about their walls, but encourage personal reflection.
- Keep the focus on Jesus as the wall-breaker, not on our own efforts to fix relationships.

LOOKING AHEAD

Read Ephesians 3:1-13 in preparation for next week. Reflect on what it means to be part of God's "mystery" revealed, and consider: how has God used your story to display His glory?



Jesus didn't wait for us to come near to Him. He came near to us.

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