



July 8th, 2018: Brought Near

Opening:

- Has there ever been a time where you haven't been picked? What was that experience like?
- Has there been a time where you have felt immensely welcomed? What was that like?

Discussion:

- Have you ever expected unchurched people to live like Jesus?
- Have you ever let church people keep you from Jesus?
- Who in your life wouldn't identify as a "church person" and you would want to share Jesus with?
- Put yourself in the shoes of someone who isn't part of the church. Would you feel welcome? Would you feel like you'd be picked first? Would you even want to be picked first based on what you've seen on the news or read about Christians?
- What does it mean to want to be a church that unchurched people love to attend?
- [Read Ephesians 2:11](#). Have you ever felt looked down on by church people because of something external?
- [Read Ephesians 2:12](#). What are the ways the list of what the Gentiles didn't have, actually pointed to what the Jews did have?
- [Read Ephesians 2:13](#). Because of Jesus, we are included in all the promises from verse 12. What are those?
- [Read Ephesians 2:14-18](#). What does it mean that Jesus is our peace?
- Eric said, "Our oneness in Christ transcends what has previously divided us ethnically and religiously." What does this mean to you? How does this give us the greatest chance to make a difference in racial unity in our community?

Application:

- How can we as a church be known more for what we are for rather than what we are against?
- What are some ways you can include people this week who are different externally from you?
- What would it mean to practically strip away everything but the cross for those who have yet to put their faith in Jesus?