

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

A Place Called Home
Week 2 Study

Icebreaker

Who is someone in your life you would consider a trustworthy friend?

Passage 1 Ephesians 2:19-21

In this passage Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus. He is explaining what it means to be part of the church which is the assembly of believers. The church of Ephesus is growing with both Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus Christ. These two groups of people have different backgrounds, different stories, different cultural practices. Paul begins to explain that although we are different, we are still part of one body and one church.

Reflection How does being of God's family differ from the description of strangers and aliens?

What is a cornerstone? What does it then mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone?

What does the phrase 'fitted together' refer to (2:21)? Who does the fitting? What is being fitted?

What might this mean practically for our lives?

Passage 2 Mark 2:1-12

God created people to be in relationship with himself and with each other. We need each other. This passage in Ecclesiastes paints a beautiful portrait of how humans can strengthen and encourage one another.

Reflection In what condition is the man that the author describes in verse 8? Describe his circumstances. How do you think he got there?

What is the author's assessment of the man's condition? What adjectives does he use?

How have you seen loneliness affect people?

Passage 3 **Matthew 11:28-30**

They were determined to get their sick friend to Jesus because they believed Jesus would heal him. They had more than one obstacle to overcome. The first barrier they faced was their friend's immobility. The second challenge the friends faced was the crowd who refused to make way. The four were so confident that Jesus would heal their friend that they let nothing hinder their determination to bring the paralytic to Jesus."

Reflection What quality impresses you the most about these four friends? (faith, love, creativity, determination, boldness etc.)

What sacrifices did the four have to make in order to get their friend to Jesus.

Whose faith led Jesus to heal the paralyzed man?

The teachers of the law (pharisees) were upset about the friend being healed? How has the church fallen short in showing love, unity, and what it means to be one body!

What is a creative or compelling modern-day example of this? How do we build bridges between our lost friends and Jesus today?

Application

The church exists to help each other in our times of need. We are stronger together. We are better together. Many times the church falls short. Instead of showing love to one another, we separate, divide, and isolate. Jesus is the the glue that binds us together. Jesus needs to be at the center of His church.

What lessons did you learn from the story that you can apply to your own life? Who can you reach out to this week to show love and support to?