

Sermon Application

LIVE IT OUT

1. Practice Daily Worship

—First thing after you wake, kneel beside your bed and worship Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

—Quote memorized scripture(s) (Eph. 1:3, Psalm 103:1, Isaiah 6:3)

2. Find Peace in Jesus.

Find time to sit in His presence and experience his Peace.

(scroll for discussion guide!)

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Ephesians

Main Idea: In the book of Ephesians, we learn how the Gospel creates a new multi-ethnic, covenant family of God and affects how we live every day as a new humanity unified in love. Energized by the Holy Spirit, believers can stand tall against the spiritual evil that threatens our unity as a Church family and maturity as followers of Jesus.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Peace and Unity in Christ

Main Text: Ephesians 2:11-22

Supporting Text(s): N/A

Message Outline:

In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul is eager to knit all believers together in unity. He makes the case that because of the work of Christ on the cross, there can be peace among Jews and gentiles; that the new temple is the body of Christ, which is the church, with Jesus as the cornerstone.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Jesus is our Peace. (v14)

- This claim that Jesus holds the only real promise of peace was countercultural in Paul's day as that would've been only a promise that Rome could make.
- Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the "dividing wall of hostility" that once separated Jews and Gentiles has been torn down and peace is not available in Him.
- Peace is not something we get *from* Jesus but something we get *in* Jesus.
 - o Don't check out, check in (Mark 1:35 / Luke 22:39)

We are His Temple (v19-22)

- We are being built into the place where God's presence dwells.
- Because of Jesus' work on the cross, his Spirit can now live in us!

The Unity of Peace is Hard Work

- Peace was not easy for Jesus, and it won't be easy for us.
- "Christ's peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of reconciliation." — John Stott

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Community Group Discussion Guide

Specific to this week's message:

1. Verse 14 says, "For he himself is our peace..." Talk about what it means for Jesus to be our peace.
2. What are some ways that you can try to manufacture "peace"?
3. What would it look like for you to practice "checking-in" (to God's presence) instead of "checking-out" (escaping)?
4. This passage in Ephesians 2 shows us that God did not just die to reconcile us to Him but also to each other. How often do you consider this part of the gospel message?
5. Share about the importance of becoming a dwelling place for God's own spirit! What does this truth mean to you?

General questions:

6. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
7. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
8. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
9. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?