

# EPHESIANS

WEEK 4 – May 4-10



New Hope | Small Groups

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS WALKING IN YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

### SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES:

**SAFE GROUP:** everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group.

**LISTEN:** really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

**PAUSE:** Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

**NO "CROSS TALK":** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

**NO FIXING:** We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus.

**NO RESCUING:** When people are sharing something deeply personal resist the temptation to rescue them by giving advice. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

**BE SELF-AWARE:** Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

**USE "I" STATEMENTS:** It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

**CONFLICT:** When conflict or sin issues arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

### Small Group Evening Schedule:

10min - Hangout time

10min - Welcome, Opening Prayer, Group Guidelines, Announcements

10min - Follow-up discussion about Sunday's Sermon

- What is one thing you learned? What challenged you?

### 40min - Storying through scripture:

We are going to be reading through the whole book of Ephesians through this series. Today, we will read the end of chapter 2 and learn about Unity in Christ and how it brings True Peace.

#### READ: Ephesians 2:11-13

Have you ever been turned away from some place or event because you didn't belong? How did that feel?

#### READ: Ephesians 2:14-18

From these verses, what kind of peace did Jesus bring to us on the cross?

Compare the peace Jesus brings – positional – with the peace that comes from our circumstances - conditional.

#### READ: John 21:20-22, Galatians 2:14

How does prejudice creep into our relationships with others?

What is the remedy to prejudice?

#### READ: Ephesians 2:19-22

What are some of the rights and benefits of citizenship? Do we ever take these for granted?

Describe the temple being built in this passage.

**CHALLENGE:** Jesus went to the cross to give us peace with God and each other and unite us as one people under Him. Am I bringing peace unity to others?

### 10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

*(one person write requests and email/text to the rest of the group)*

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