

# Seacoast Church Small Group Questions

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## New & Improved: Reality [Ephesians 2:11-22] Small Group Lesson

### Scripture

**Ephesians 2:11-22 (NLT)** - 11Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. 14For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. 17He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. 19So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

### Icebreaker

- As a group, find as many things as possible that you all have in common.
- Share about a time when you first felt like an outsider.

### Discussion Questions

1. Josh talked this week about 3 realities - the reality of what was, the reality of what is, and the reality of what could be. What stands out to you when you think about the reality of what was in your life before you accepted Christ?
2. Verse 11 emphasizes the distinction between those who are circumcised and those who aren't. What name-calling do some Christians engage in today?
3. According to verses 14-18, what two reconciliations does Christ achieve?
4. How have you found that having peace with God through Christ affects your having peace with others?
5. What rules, written or implied, and requirements do we enforce which might hinder people from coming into the kingdom?
6. We still see division among Christians today. How can those who are united in Christ still be divided?
7. How can you learn more about the views of others so that you can work toward unity?
8. What practical first step toward unity can you take this week with somebody that you differ with?