SMALL GROUP GUIDE **FEB 1, 2026**

We Are Community Nurtured

Ephesians 2:11–22 paints a powerful picture of what God has accomplished through Christ. He has taken people who were once far from Him and from each other and made them into one new family. Paul reminds all the believers, including the Jews and Gentiles, that they were once outsiders without hope, but now have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Jesus Himself is our peace, breaking down every barrier that divides us and forming a new humanity reconciled to God and one another. The church, therefore, is meant to be a living demonstration of God's reconciling love. In Christ, we are being built together into a dwelling place where God's Spirit lives.

- When was a time you felt like an "outsider," and what helped you feel welcomed or included?
- Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Paul begins by telling the church to "remember" their former separation from God and His people. Why do you think remembering our past spiritual condition is important for understanding God's grace?
- Ephesians 2:14 states Christ "is our peace" and has "destroyed the dividing wall of hostility." What kinds of barriers or hostilities existed between Jews and Gentiles, and how does Jesus address them?
- The imagery at the end of the passage describes believers as a household and a holy temple being built together. What does this imagery teach us about the nature of Christian community?
- Paul highlights how identity markers like ethnicity and culture once divided people. What identity markers in our world (or even in the church) still tend to divide people today? How might the gospel reshape how you relate to those differences?
- Christ calls us to be peacemakers because He has made peace for us. Where in your daily life, including your workplace, family, friendships, etc., do you have the opportunity to actively create peace rather than avoid conflict? What would it look like for you to pursue peace?
- Paul says we now have access to the Father "by one Spirit." How does this truth reshape the way you approach God in prayer, worship, or decision-making during the week?

Praying together

Partner up with an individual of the same gender from your group. Confess a relationship not at peace as described in Ephesians 2:11-22. Ask God for forgiveness and the wisdom to make things right. If the person is in the group, take time to pray with that individual.