

Week 05 Small group

Belonging to His family

TRANSFORMED LIFE



WEEK FIVE – BELONGING TO HIS FAMILY

‘Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men) – remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.’

EPHESIANS 2:11–22

WELCOME

Play a game such as Jenga that highlights being connected together. Or use Lego or other building blocks to make an impressive, creative structure, in which every part has a place. Having done the activity, were there any lessons you could draw from it?

Alternatively, share any stories of being given special access to a place or a person.

Is there anything anyone wants to share on reflection of last week’s study?

Pray that the Holy Spirit would bring each of us a revelation this week of why and where we can truly belong.

WATCH THE VIDEO

In Christ, we who were have been

‘But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.’ (Ephesians 2:13)

In Christ, we now have to the Father by the Spirit

‘For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.’ (2:18)

We are citizens of God’s

‘Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people’ (2:19)

We are members of God’s

‘members of God’s household.’ (2:19)

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We are a part of God's

'Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.' (2:20–22)

'And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.' (2:22)

WORD

Share how you have felt when coming home to friends or family after having been away for some time.

Read verse 18 and discuss together what Jesus has done to make it possible for us to draw near to Father God.

The *Transformed Life* book gives three examples from the passage about what it means to belong. What were they? What do these convey about being in church life together?

What are the different benefits of belonging to the global Church and also to the local church? What have been people's various experiences?

Why is (or is not) citizenship important to us as human beings?

WORSHIP

Read Ephesians 2:13–18. If appropriate in your church stream/denomination, consider taking Communion together.

Thank God that Jesus' body was broken that we may be made whole, not just as individuals, but joined together in the community of His church, the body of Christ.

Thank Jesus for giving His blood for us that we who were far away have been brought near and have free access to Father God.

Stand together in a circle and thank God that He is dwelling in our midst. Have each person pray for the person on their left (all together) that they would know an increasing sense of belonging to God and to His family the church.

WITNESS

Pray for those in our world who aren't near to God, but are far off. Thank God that Jesus shed His blood and died for them. Pray for individuals by name, that they may sense God's call to come near to Him.

Consider together what you could do to help others find a sense of belonging in your local church. Then decide what you will personally do this week.

ACTION STEPS

Look at the list of declarations on Day 50 under Section 2, 'Belonging'.

Consider what decision you want to make about being connected to your local church.

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Think about how you can practically get more involved both in and through your small group and through weekend services.