



WEEK 2 Take-Home - Study Ephesians together...

We're walking through Ephesians together. Here are some questions & conversation starters to help you grow as you talk about your faith together during the week.

Scripture for memorization & meditation: Ephesians 2:19 -

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."

Questions for personal study...

- † No one has ever probably tried to belittle you by calling you "uncircumcised." But think of a time you were belittled by someone who thought he/she was better. The result was conflict. Think of the difference it might make to remember that no one is better than another. We all need Jesus!!
- † If you were baptized as a baby, it's hard to remember a time when you were separated from Christ. But if you're someone God didn't bring to faith until later in life, remember what that was like?
- † Jesus is our peace. He's made peace for us with God. Identify something in your life that seems to take away your peace. What difference does Jesus make?
- † That we believe is "to the praise of his glory." We're here to make God look good by the way we live so others get a glimpse of our Maker through us - ask each other about how to live "to the praise of his glory" this week.

Questions for discussion:

- † When you think of someone living "without hope and without God," who do you think of? Tell each other what you feel.
- † Sin separates. Name a kind of separation, caused by sin that makes you angry.
- † God unites. Tell each other about a person or people you've seen separated by sin and reunited by Jesus.
- † The Old Testament ceremonial (worship) laws were supposed to point to Jesus. The temple, the priesthood and sacrifices were all about Jesus. We are free from all those laws. Choose one thing about the way we worship and tell how it helps you see Jesus.
- † Name some Old Testament practices that can help us remember what it's like to be disconnected from God and God's people and remember that Jesus unites us to God and God's people.

- † vv.19-21 picture three things: 1.) God as King and us as citizens 2.) God as Father and us as children in his household, and 3.) the Bible as the foundation and us as stones. Which picture do you like better and why?
- † When church is like a business, we take. When church is family, we give. When a church gets this wrong it's not pretty. What do/don't you like about each comparison?
- † Brainstorm a list of ways our church can correct groups of people in different ways (*As opposed to just separate groups for teens, children and adults*).

Tips for parents with young children this week...

Monday - Ask your child to draw a picture of the church. Read v.21 and explain that all of us, God's children are the church.

Tuesday - Talk about someone your child knows at church. Maybe invite that person over for lunch.

Wednesday - Ask your child to list all the things he or she is thankful for. Then write (Name) thanks God for..." and put it on the fridge.

Thursday - Get two slices of cheese and poke some holes in one. Each of you then eat a slice. Ask who got more cheese. False teachers poke holes in the Bible and take out what they don't like (*They turn it into "holey" cheese*). We need all of God's Word!

Friday - Talk with your child about someone who is different from you. Remind him/her that in one way we're all the same: we all need Jesus.

Saturday - Do some of the kid's questions online. (*Go to stpauldale.com; click on Youth Ministry to find "123 kid's bible questions"*)

Sunday - Spend some time praying with your children before or after church. Explain that you go to church to learn more about God, to help welcome other children, and to have fun with their friends. After church ask about things they saw or remember hearing from their time with their Savior that day.