

Journey CHURCH

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Session 3 – New Life in Community Leader Guide

Session 6 Video Notes

It's the gospel that brings _____ groups of people together.

If you're in Christ, not only do you have a new _____.

You have a new _____.

We have a new _____.

We have new brothers and sisters. We are made part of the _____ of God.

You're _____ of the kingdom of God.

We're a _____.

Discuss

When we think about rivalries, it's easy to think of sports teams or political parties. It's easy not only because they come to mind quickly but also because they tend to operate outside us. We don't have to look our rival in the eye every week. It becomes more personal when your rival is sitting across the room from you.

1. Have you ever met a difficult person? What made them so difficult?

Read Ephesians 2:11-12

2. Paul described us as "separated from Christ, alienated" (v. 12). What does it mean to be alienated from others?
3. From whom do you feel alienated at this time in your life?
4. What would reconciliation look like for you?

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In verses 11-12 Paul tells us that we were apart from Christ, separated from God, and without hope. It's really a bleak picture. But the Paul described an amazing change.

Read Ephesians 2:13-14.

Christ's blood is the bridge that brings us near, though we were once far off.

5. What's significant about "the blood of Christ" (v. 13)?
6. Based on these verses, what should we do when there's a wall between us and someone else?

Read Ephesians 2:19-22.

The apostle Paul shared three pictures of the community we become part of when we're reconciled to one another.

7. Which of these pictures do you need the most in your life right now? Why?
8. How would you respond to someone who says, "I love Jesus, but I don't love His church"?

Being reconciled with God doesn't mean that working in unity with people is easy. But even though it's not easy to live in unity with other believers, Jesus died to bring us together. So it must be important!

Jesus died for His church. That's all of us—you, me, people who are different from us, and even people who are legitimately hard to get along with.

9. What relationship is strained or broken in your life, especially a relationship with another Christian?
10. Share that information with the person on your left. (Use initials or describe the situation if you aren't comfortable sharing the name.)

Here are a few action steps you could take this week.

- Pray for that person.
- Ask God to soften your heart toward them.
- Call the person.
- Write the person a note, an email, or a text.
- Have a face-to-face meeting