



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Eph. 2:19-22

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read Eph. 2:19-22

Sermon Summary:

Eden: God's Garden-Temple

In Ephesians 2:21-22 we read that we are God's holy temple and his dwelling place. While this might be a new thought for you, the truth is that from the very first page of the Bible God has shown us that this was his intention all along.

In the garden of Eden we see more than just a beautiful green space that provided food. We see all the trappings of a temple. God dwelt there with his creation. And humans centred their lives on him.

After humans rejected God, God didn't abandon his desire. He set up the tabernacle and temple as sacred spaces for he and us to dwell together. In the New Testament Jesus is the tabernacle and temple (Jn. 1:14; 2:19, 21), and he tells us that we are his temples here on earth!

God's good pleasure and his desire is to be united with us and to dwell within and among us. As his temples God accomplishes that. But it doesn't stop with us.

Discussion:

1. What were the things that inspired you about this message?
2. When we think about the Garden of Eden, we usually consider it primarily as a place for the humanity. Why might this not be the best way to see the garden? Read the following verses: Ezek. 28:13-14; Isa. 51:3
3. The ESV Study Bible has this note: "The Tabernacle...is where God dwells...Various details of the Tabernacle suggest it is a mini Eden. The parallels include the east-facing entrance guarded by cherubim, the gold, the Tree of Life (lampstand)..." Find the verses in Gen 3 to support this statement
4. Read 1 Kings 6:18, 29, 32. How do these verses show the temple depicted the garden of Eden?
5. Since the church is the temple, the dwelling place of God with His people, how should this understanding affect our expectations and practices as the church here today?
6. How does being the temple of God change the way you view your relationships in the church?
7. Ephesians 2:22 ? " In him?you also are being built together?into a dwelling place for God by?the Spirit. " How can you know and be confident that this is happening in your life?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for a deeper understanding of the church that leads to deeper and richer experiences in the church .
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.