



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Eph. 2:14-19

Read Eph. 2:14-19

God's Peace-Mission

Sermon Summary:

In spite of constant conflict around us, everyone in the depths of their heart wants peace. Yet this peace is only found in Christ. In our fallen nature we tend toward divisiveness. Yet Christ's death on the cross broken down every barrier that separates people from from each other in order to bring peace. This does not mean that there are no differences between people. However, these differences do not prevent us from accepting one another as fellow citizens in God's kingdom and loving one another as members in the family of God. This is our new identity: fellow citizens of God's kingdom and members in the family of God. Peace does not mean merely the absence of hostility. It means embracing one another even though we may be different in many ways. Peace reflects the gospel and also reflects the relationship of the divine Trinity. This is what Christ died to achieve. Let's live in this new humanity in peace.

Discussion:

1. What are examples in your life where you have experienced separation from others and maybe even hostility?
2. What is the foundation upon which we can have peace with God and peace with others?
3. What enables us to not merely tolerate but accept, love and embrace others regardless of differences?

4. How can we as the church display the gospel of peace?
5. What are the specific challenges for us to overcome to achieve this kind of peace?
6. What does it mean to you that the believers, the church, are fellow-citizens?
7. What does it mean to you that believers are the house-hold of God?
8. Practically how can this new identity affect the way you live? (Ephesians 4:17)

End with Prayer.

- Pray that the peace that was accomplished on the cross by Christ would be realized practically in the church.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.