



**THEME:** GOD'S HEART FOR RACIAL UNITY

**SONGS:** Click [here](#) for Sunday's worship set. *Be sure to subscribe to our channel!*

**TEACHING PASSAGE:** Ephesians 2:11-22.

*See the **next page** for any additional resources, including any activities that can be done with young children.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-12. These verses set up verse 13 and give us the background for verses 14-16. How are we referred to and what was our outlook?
2. Once we accept the gift of Christ Jesus and are saved (verse 13) we still need have need for unity. Who alone "is our peace"? (Verse 14)
3. As believers in Christ, we have common ground that should unify us and motivate us to have peace. Read John 17:20-21 and Colossians 3:15. How do these verses help in understanding what unites us?
4. When these verses were written there was division between Jew and Gentile as to who kept the law and who did not, but Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf. What does that do for us? (verses 15-16)?
5. God has a heart for unity (verse 17) and we have been given access and are in one Spirit (verse 18), so then who should we be unified with?(Galatians 3:23-28)

## Additional Resources

### **Teaching Passage:** Ephesians 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### **For young children:**

Ask: As Paul speaks to the Gentiles in verse 12 and 19. What are some words he used to describe their previous condition?

Ask: In verse 13, what has changed for the Gentiles?

Ask: In verses 14-16, How has the blood of Jesus affected the relationship between Jews and Gentiles?

Ask: In verse 17, what was preached to both Gentile and Jew?

Say: In verses 17-22, Paul describes the unity of the believers as one, one new man in the place of two, both have access to the spirit, fellow citizens, members of the household of God, built together, dwelling place for God, holy temple.

Ask: In verse 20, Paul is writing about the household of God. What is the foundation: Who is the cornerstone?

Activity: Using blocks or Legos, build a wall and with each block say the words Paul used to describe the condition of the Gentiles and Jews before the blood of Christ united them. Now, KNOCK DOWN THE WALL! We are not done yet. Now build a holy temple using the words Paul wrote to describe the unity of the believers. Add a few more bricks naming each member of your family and other believers, like our pastors and teachers and church family.

Talk about how each of you have experienced Biblical unity. Talk about obstacles we face that cause discord with fellow believers. The blood of Jesus made us one, yet we are still different.

Pray for God to perfect the unity of all believers through the work done on the cross.

# BUILD THAT CHURCH.

HOME · TAKE HOME



## KNOW WHAT!

**Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,<sup>19</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>20</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>21</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.