

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 12, 2019

Citizens with the Saints

Our Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-21

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What did you do on Mother's Day? What are your fondest memories of mom?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Compare and contrast these two opening versions of Ephesians. Why do these differences matter?
 - a. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus."
 - b. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are also faithful in Christ Jesus."
2. Bible scholars generally conclude that though Paul is represented as the author, Ephesians was written after his death drawing heavily on the themes he touched on in the seven New Testament letters where his authorship is unquestioned. What difference does this fact make for your study of Ephesians?
3. Ephesians chapter 2 is filled with memorable, stunning bible verses. Read Ephesians 2:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 2:14, Ephesians 2:19 Which is your personal favorite? Why?

MEDIA MIX - Do you hear the people sing?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47E2tfK5QAg>

What are some themes lifted up in this 2 minute musical excerpt from Les Miserables consistent with the thoughts of the Apostle Paul?
Which are not consistent?

TAKING IT HOME

1. How has your mom blessed you? What are some healthy boundaries that have helped your relationship?
2. Greg suggested that our human society resembles the social system of the ancient Rome. Who would you substitute for these social classes today?

Emperor Caesar Augustus=
Imperial family=
Senators=
Aristocrats/magistrates=
Merchants, artisans=
Soldiers=
Manual laborers=
Non-citizens=
Slaves=

PRAYER REQUESTS and PRAYER TIME

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Who are “the miserable ones,” today? Make a list of those you would like to pray for.

Housekeeping

1. Who is bringing treats next week?
2. When is your group service project scheduled? (check God’s Work Our Hands Options this month)
3. Complete the covenant as a growth group