

Gospel People - Brought Near Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What are the most significant moments in your life that have come to define who you are?
2. What movie or TV show best describes your life?

Read the following passages: Ephesians 2:8-18.

1. Do you experience stress, anxiety, and/or fear regularly? How do those show up in your life?
2. Read Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus offers us rest and peace in him through addressing the root causes of sin, challenging experiences, and fear in our lives. How does Jesus offer to help us open up those sensitive parts of our hearts to him?
3. At one point all of us were far from God and he is the one who reached out to us to bring us close to him through Jesus. Have you believed the Gospel message? How has God been bringing you near to him recently?
4. God brings two estranged groups (Jew and Gentile) together through the cross but putting to death their hostility. What group of people do you find it difficult to love and get along with? How does reflecting on God's love on the cross help us to embrace people we find hard to relate to?
5. Part of God's mission is to reconcile people back together, especially people who are already believers in Jesus. Do you have anyone in your life who you know you need to offer forgiveness to or apologize to?
6. God gives us a new identity in Christ that is greater than any other earthly identity. Is that how you currently think of yourself? How does that identity help us to relate to other believers in a way that is even deeper than people we share a cultural identity with?

Pray.