

Discussion Guide

“It’s Time To Grow Up”, wk3: Walls Broken Down, One in Christ

January 22, 2023



Big Idea

Jesus replaced the old way to God with a new way to God, tearing down any walls of division.



Icebreaker

Where is the most dangerous place you have been or visited? What helped to keep you safe or to have some form of composure despite the threat you may have felt?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-13. How did non-Jewish people likely feel about the Jewish God and Jewish people under the old-covenant (prior to Jesus)? How did the non-Jewish people likely feel about themselves and their relationship with God prior to Jesus (we see a clue to one way in verse 12)?
2. Describe a time in your life where you felt like the wall between yourself, and God was too high and impenetrable? What were some misguided beliefs that contributed to your feeling that way? Were there any people and/or institutions that contributed to your feeling that way? Has that feeling turned around and if so, when & how?
3. Read Ephesians 2:14-18. From these verses, what was God’s purpose in Christ in destroying the barrier between people? Do you live as a proactive proponent for God’s love and forgiveness being available to all people? If so, how do you do that? Is there room for growth for you in that and what may that growth entail? BONUS QUESTION: How effectively do you, personally, engage in & value the access you have to the Father by the one Spirit that was bought for you by Christ’s sacrifice?
4. Read Ephesians 3:6-7. Per verse 6, what was the mystery revealed to Paul that energized him to get up each morning and continue to share the Gospel? Why do you think he was so passionate about this mystery and his sharing of it? How does Paul describe himself in verse 7 that indicates his passion for, and seriousness about, his calling & God-given message? Could you fairly be called a servant of the Gospel? If so, why? If not, why not and what step can you take to serve your King?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-33. What were some of the physical discomforts Paul faced to stick to his calling of sharing the Gospel? Thinking beyond this verse, what are some discomforts (even outside of the physical) that he likely faced?
6. Maturing in one’s faith usually requires discomfort. How have you already faced and dealt with that in your faith journey? What is the next step for you to take to grow in your faith and what discomfort may that likely require? Are you willing to deal with that discomfort? If not, what could help you to be ready & willing to face it?



Concluding Question

Growing up in our faith is understanding & proactively living out that the Gospel is available to all. Answer this in your own mind: is there a people group, category of sinners, or person that you struggle with feeling that they are unworthy of the Gospel? Take some extended time in prayer to admit this to God, seek forgiveness from Him and receive it. Then lift them up in prayer for salvation & blessing.



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray that our tangible love for one another as the Church, in unity & peace would draw people to Christ.