



“No Longer Outsiders” Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer : Begin your time together with this prayer or invite a member to pray:
“Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Please open the eyes of our hearts to understand the depth of the Gospel and the hope we have in Christ. Help us to grasp the unity You call us to, and lead us to live as Your reconciled family. Amen.”

Part 1: Understanding Our Past and Present

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-12 (ESV)

“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh... were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that we were “separate from Christ” and “without hope”? How does this help us understand the difference Jesus made in our lives?
2. Reflect on your own faith journey—where did you feel like an outsider before knowing Christ?
3. How does “Anyone can come to Christ” encourage you about sharing the Gospel with others?

Part 2: The “But God” Moment

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-5, 13-16 (ESV)

“But God, being rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ... For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one...”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the phrase “But God” so significant in the Gospel story? What hope does it offer us?
2. How does the idea of Christ making “one new humanity” impact how we live and relate to others?
3. What does “propitiation” mean, and how does understanding God’s justice and mercy motivate us toward reconciliation?



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Part 3: Unity and Reconciliation in Christ

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:17-22; Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:19-20 (ESV)

“To unite all things in Christ... through him to reconcile to himself all things, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Paul mean by “the mystery of his will” to unite everything in Christ? How is this different from just being individually saved?
2. How does understanding the cosmic and corporate reconciliation in Christ change your view of the Church?
3. Have you experienced or witnessed challenges in unity within the Church or your community? What are some steps we can take toward genuine reconciliation?

Part 4: The Cost and Call of Reconciliation

Scripture: Romans 12:18 (ESV)

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul say, “as far as it depends on you”? What does this imply about responsibility in pursuing peace?
2. Think about your relationships—are there areas where hostility, resentment, or unforgiveness is present? What prevents you from pursuing reconciliation?
3. How can the church support one another in overcoming barriers like racism, bigotry, or personal offenses?

Personal Reflection and Action:

- Where am I holding on to hostility or resentment?
- Who might God be calling me to reconcile with?
- What practical steps can I take this week toward unity and peace with others?

Closing Prayer:

Close your group by praying for the grace to live out the truth of reconciliation and unity:

“Lord, thank You for making us one through Christ. Help us to pursue peace with others as we have peace with You. Heal any broken relationships and empower us through Your Spirit to be agents of Your reconciliation in this world. Amen.”