



SERIES TITLE
STUDY GUIDE
WEEK 2



MAIN SCRIPTURE:
Ephesians 2:17-22

MAIN POINT:
The Creator has given you a place to belong.

JESUS CONNECTION:
When we believe in Jesus, we become part of His family.

@HopeHSM

1. READ *The Bible* Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God’s word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it’s on the back*).

2. OBSERVE
The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET
What Does the Text Mean?

Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org

What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians years after visiting them, from prison, to remind them the Gospel is the foundation of their faith and encourage them to persevere in the face of suffering.

What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?

What do key words mean in their original language?

What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?

Read the whole chapter of Ephesians 2, it paints a beautiful picture of the foundation of our hope in Jesus.

What is this text’s clearest meaning?

4. APPLY
Getting Personal

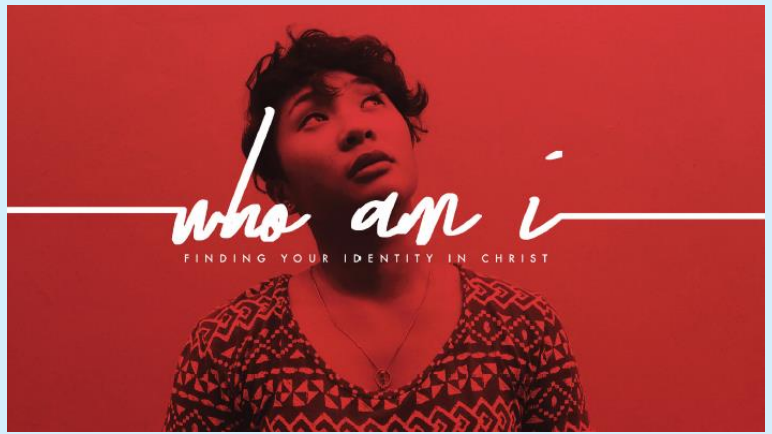
How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?

What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?

What is God saying to you through this Scripture?



SERIES TITLE
DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 2



MAIN SCRIPTURES:
Ephesians 2:17-22

MAIN POINT:
Your Creator has given you a place to belong.

JESUS CONNECTION:
Jesus loves you and wants to be in a personal relationship with you.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize they already have the best place to belong ever.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Sometimes, in our desire to encourage students to live lives of integrity, we encourage them to be the same person at church that they are everywhere else. While this is good advice in some ways, it can also fail to take into account the fact that it's a normal part of the high school phase for students to experiment with different interests, styles, and activities as they search for their own identities. And that's not a bad thing! It's actually a healthy part of growing up. So, while our integrity and character should be consistent everywhere we go encourage your students it's ok to try out different interests, styles, and activities as they figure out who they were made to be.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What are different groups people belong to?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes you feel comfortable around other people?
2. What are some ways our desire to belong is normal?
3. What are some ways our desire to belong can be dangerous?

READ EPHESIANS 2:17-22 and answer the following questions:

4. In your own words, what is this passage saying?
5. How can someone belong with God? (This may be a good time to go over the 5 points of the gospel (Go5pel Guide) with your group).

GOSPEL GUIDE

1. **GOD** – All of us were created to be in relationship with Him. *Genesis 1:27*
2. **SIN** – Because of sin, that relationship was broken. *Romans 3:23*
3. **JESUS** – Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins and fix what has been broken. *John 3:16*
4. **GIFT** – Jesus offers forgiveness and eternity in Heaven as a free gift. – *Ephesians 2:8-9*
5. **CHOICE** – God loves us completely, so He allows us to choose whether to receive or reject this gift. – *Romans 10:9-10*

6. How can we live like we belong to God? Why can that be difficult?
7. What might it look like for us to invite others to belong too? Why can that be difficult?
8. When we really believe our Creator has given us a place to belong, how does that change our lives?

NEXT STEP

What is one, tangible next step you can take on your own this week to either live like you belong to God or invite others to belong?
Have your students share their goal with the group.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:17-22 NIV

¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His house-hold, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Sit-Down IceBreaker

In Person Instructions

This ice-breaker is always fun and requires little preparation and no props. It involves everyone. Simply have everyone stand up. Announce that you will be reading from a list of "if" statements. If a statement applies to them, they must sit down. Feel free to come up with your own statements in addition to these:

- You didn't use a deodorant today.
- You have worn the same socks for two days.
- You've played Among Us.
- Your belly button is an outie.
- You have a crush.
- You still suck your thumb.
- You are good looking.
- You hit the snooze button on your alarm clock.
- You ran out of toilet paper at any point in 2020.
- You watch reruns.
- You are the oldest sibling.
- You are the youngest sibling.
- You've eaten a bug.
- You have a hole in your sock.
- You recently got a traffic ticket.
- You have a false tooth.
- You made a New Year's Resolution this year.
- You are still keeping your New Year's Resolution.

End by saying something such as "Sit down if you are tired of standing;" this will usually get everyone to sit down.

Virtual Instructions

Same as above, except "sit down" = "turn off your screen." At the end ask everyone to turn on their screen.