



## The House of God Ephesians 2:11-22 The Story of Us (Part 2)

### THE BIG IDEA

We often think about the House of God as being a building, but Ephesians 2 teaches something different. The Apostle Paul says that God lives in us, as individuals, and also that God lives in *us* as a community. There is power in meeting together with other believers, because God dwells there in our midst.

### OPENING

Share about a time where you felt the presence of God. Was it a solitary experience or a communal one? What stands out to you about it?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- What are the key phrases in Ephesians 2:11-22 that emphasize unity between Jewish and Gentile believers?
- Ephesians 2:14-16 talks about Jesus breaking down the dividing wall of hostility and creating one new humanity.
  - Read Galatians 3:26-28. What similarities do you see between these two passages?
  - How do these passage challenge us to live in unity as God's people today?
- Paul describes believers as being "fellow citizens with God's people" in Ephesians 2:19. Compare this to Philippians 3:17-20. where Paul talks about citizenship in heaven. How does our heavenly citizenship influence how we live on earth?
- Ephesians 2:22 says that we are being built together as a dwelling place for God.
  - Read 1 Peter 2:4-5. How does Peter's description of believers as living stones expand your understanding of what it means to be God's dwelling place?
  - In the Old Testament, God's presence dwelled in the tabernacle and the temple. Read **Exodus 40:34-38** and **1 Kings 8:10-13**. How does the imagery of God dwelling in these places compare to Paul's teaching about God dwelling in us?



## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Many in our community have lost homes or are helping others rebuild. How does the truth that *God lives in us and among us* challenge or comfort us in times of loss?
- When have you experienced the power of the collective church community as described in this passage?
- How might we embody being a "holy temple" together as we respond to the needs around us?

## PRAYER REQUESTS