

# December 1 – 7

## Walk Worthy | Peace for God's People

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever been an outsider to some “in” group? What was the situation? How did it make you feel?

*In this session, we will consider that there is only one way to change the sense of separation we may feel spiritually from God or relationally from others.*

### **Read Ephesians 2:11–13**

- How are Gentiles compared with the Jews, who are called “the circumcision?”
- Hopelessness is the ultimate result of their separation from God. How does hopelessness manifest itself in our culture?
- How does Jesus take away the hopelessness of their separation from God?

### **Read Ephesians 2:14–18**

- How is Jesus connected to the concept of peace in these verses?
- How were the commandments of the Jewish Law a barrier to Gentiles?
- How are the law of commandments and ordinances abolished?
- What is the current reality for Jews and Gentiles because of Jesus' work?
- Why is it important to understand that the hostility was primarily between all people and God and only secondarily between Jews and Gentiles?

### **Read Ephesians 2:19–22**

- Why would the description of these believers be significant for people who might have still felt a sense of separation from the people of God?
- How is this new household of God built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets?
- How does Jesus serve as the cornerstone for this new structure?
- How are we built into a dwelling place for God? Who builds us? Why is this significant?

### **Application**

- Think about how you feel compared to people who are spiritually different from you. Do you feel a sense of spiritual superiority or inferiority? What causes you to feel one way or the other?
- How would understanding the role Jesus has played in making you a part of his family change your tendency to feel a sense of spiritual superiority or inferiority to others?
- With what person or group of people do you need to change your views or attitudes? What would it look like if you interacted with them with more humility and understanding?
- Why is it difficult for you to remember where you came from and so better appreciate what is now true of you?