

why church?

The Building of a New Community

Ice Breaker: What membership or subscription (Costco, Netflix, etc) can you not go without?

Read: Ephesians 2, Ephesians 4:11-16

Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
 - Why do people tend to replace things instead of restoring them?
 - How is God's approach to broken people different from our tendency to discard or give up on things?
- New Life (Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - According to Paul, what was our condition before Christ?
 - What does this passage teach us about God's character?
 - Why is it important that salvation is described as God's work rather than our achievement?
 - V.10 says we are "God's handiwork" — what does that tell us about our identity and purpose?
 - How does understanding your own story of renewal affect the way you view other people who do not yet know Jesus?
- New Community (Ephesians 2:11-18)
 - What barriers does Paul say Jesus has destroyed?
 - Why do you think reconciliation with one another is such an important part of God's renewal plan?
 - How does this passage challenge the idea that Christianity is only a private, individual faith?
 - What are some barriers that can prevent people from feeling connected in a church today?
- New Citizenship (Ephesians 2:19-22)
 - How does belonging to God's family differ from simply attending church services?
 - Why is it significant that Christ is described as the cornerstone?
 - How does this passage shape our understanding of church membership and commitment?
 - In what ways can we move from being consumers of church to contributors in God's household?
- Closing Thoughts (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - What gifts, experiences, or strengths has God given you to build up the church?
 - How can you participate more fully in God's renewal plan through Midtown Church this week?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

