

# 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?
- God Gave Us Life (Ephesians 2:1-10)
  - According to Paul, what was our condition before Christ?
  - 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 need of God's grace affect the way you view other people who do not yet know Jesus?
- God Gave Us Each Other (Ephesians 2:11-18)
  - What barriers does Paul say Jesus has destroyed?
  - Why do you think forgiveness and reconciliation with one another is important within community?
  - 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?
- God Gave Us Somewhere to Belong (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?
- Closing Thoughts
  - What gifts, experiences, or strengths has God given you to build up the church?
  - In what ways can we move from being consumers of church to contributors in God's household this week?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

