



HOME GROUP

Gather - The Finale!

Tuesday 2nd July

Discussion Starter:

- What things or people does the world encourage us to love?

"There is a peculiar, distinctive glory in the gathering of Christians together. And we regularly need a renewed vision of the church, seeing it from the New Testament's perspective, so that we can appreciate the church's centrality and glory, and our responsibility in it.

In Ephesians 2:12-22, after reminding believers of their previous alienation from God and each other, Paul articulates what Christ has done to reconcile them to God and one another (v 14-18), so that "through him we [all] have access in one Spirit to the Father". And then Paul goes on to give us a picture of our corporate identity as the people of God, which is reflected in our gatherings." (Gather, pp.119-120)

Read together

Read Ephesians Chapter 2 verses 11-22 together.

Merida reminds us that, according to these verses, in Christ God's people are:

- i) **citizens of God's kingdom,**
- ii) **members of a family, and**
- iii) **stones in God's temple.**

Q1. Discuss together why these descriptions of the church are so encouraging. Are you inclined to overlook any of these three?

Q2. Why is gathering together such an important expression of our corporate identity in Christ? How do Sunday services and other church gatherings help us grow in our understanding of fellow Christians as 'kingdom citizens', 'family members' and 'living stones'?

Q3. Take a moment to flick back through the Gather book. Consider: Is there anything that has particularly helped you or challenged you in your thinking about Gathering with your brothers and sisters in the local church? Is there anything the Lord has laid upon your heart to do differently as a result?

Pray

If you feel able to, why not share with those in your group, and commit one another to the Lord in prayer. Praise Him that in Christ we are fellow citizens, family members and stones in God's temple. Pray that we would increasingly see ourselves and one another in these ways.