

Ephesians 2:11-22

“Access Restored”

I. Introduction

**Pass out the name tags, and sharpies at the beginning of class!

Then take the first few minutes to introduce yourselves. If you have family members who go to the church tell people who you are related to! The older folks in our church love connecting you to your parents or grandparents. Say something like....

“Hi, my name is _____, my Parents are **John and Jane Doe** or my Grandparents **Jim and Pam Doe.**”

II. Game

Say: We are going to continue now by playing a game.

Game Instructions

Guess Who

- 1) Pass out a note card and a pen to everyone in the class
- 2) Tell them all that they will be writing down two facts about themselves
- 3) Everyone should keep their answers private so everyone can guess
- 4) After they have written down their facts, the note cards will be turned in.
- 5) Read each card, and everyone can discuss and then vote on who they think each specific note card belongs to.

Say: “This game is called Guess Who. Each one of you will receive a note card and a pen. On the note card, you should answer these two questions. **Question 1)** What is one job you’ve had, (or almost had) that might surprise people? **Question 2)** What is one food you absolutely refuse to eat? After you have answered these on your note card, turn them back in to us. We will read them aloud, one by one, and you will have the chance to discuss as a group and vote on who you think wrote the answer.”

Say: “Thank you all for participating in our game! We are going to be studying Ephesians 2:11-22 this morning. But before we jump into that, we want to let you know that we need your participation. This lesson is set up for us to ask you questions as we think about the topic of trusting in Jesus. In student ministry we always have a few opening questions to introduce the topic. Here are our opening questions....”

/// Bible Study Lesson

Opening Questions:

1. Tell us something funny in your life that you needed help with. (Co
 - a. **Answer:** *Answers will vary.*
2. What's something that you've worked on or accomplished with a team of people that you are proud of? (Won a medal, built something, etc.)
 - a. **Answer:** *Answers will vary.*

SAY: *We run into roadblocks, obstacles, and closed doors in our lives all the time. Sometimes, we can't open or get past them on our own and need someone's help. Our biggest obstacle as sinners is that our access to God has been cut off, because of our disobedience. Thankfully, God, in his grace, made a way for our access to Him to be restored through Jesus.*

These next questions will hopefully help us to understand the context of Ephesians.

Context Questions:

1. Who are the Gentiles in biblical times?
 - a. **Answer:** Gentiles were non-Jewish people. They were cut off from God and his covenant family and promises because they were not part of the family of Abraham.
2. What was significant about the Gentiles and their relationship with Jewish people?
 - a. **Answer:** They did not get along. The Jewish people often did not let the Gentiles into their lives or opportunities to worship God because they believed that the Gentiles were not let into God's family.
3. Ok, fun Bible trivia. Are you considered a Jew or a Gentile. And why?
 - a. **Answer:** We are gentiles! This is important context for us to understand.

SAY: "Can Someone please read Ephesians 2:11-22?"

Passage Questions:

1. What part of this passage caught your attention the most?
 - a. **Answer:** Allow people to think about it for a second. *(If no one is speaking up, maybe try calling out someone in the group by saying "what about you JACK, what stood out to you?")*
2. Where does Paul say the Gentiles (us) were before Christ? What about after? What brought them to Jesus?
 - a. **Answer:** The Gentiles were apart from God because they were not part of the Israelites. The blood of Christ brought them back to God, and now they have access to the Father through Jesus

3. Under the old covenant, people had to sacrifice animals to be made right with God. What is it about Jesus's sacrifice that is better?
 - a. **Answers will vary:** Different answers people might give: 1) Jesus' sacrifice was once for all and didn't have to be repeated, 2) Jesus is both the priest and the sacrifice, 3) His sacrifice was morally perfect because he was sinless, 4) It actually removes sin. 5) It establishes a new covenant.
4. Sin causes so many things to be broken. Because of it we have a broken relationship with God, broken relationships with each other, and even a broken relationship with God's world. Jesus' sacrifice gives us a new peace with these things. Give me some examples of how we experience this peace.
 - a. **Answers will vary:** New relationship with God, we now have a church family, we can seek to be peacemakers.
5. What do you think the "hostility" is that Paul talks about? Why is it there?
 - a. **Answer:** The hostility is the struggle of pride and belonging to the family of God between the Jews and Gentiles. Some of the Jews struggled with the Gentiles being granted the same access to God that they felt they earned or deserved through their ethnicity and/or their religious works.
6. What is Paul saying about the hostility?
 - a. **Answer:** Paul is encouraging everyone to lay down the hostility because we are all granted the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ alone, whether Jew or Gentile. The two ethnic groups can now live together in peace because it is not by completing works of the law
7. According to Paul and this passage, how are we granted salvation?
 - a. **Answer:** By the blood of Christ! He made peace and granted us access to God by fulfilling the law perfectly when we could not and taking our place of punishment. Through him alone we have access to the Father.
8. In your own words, what is the theme of this passage?
 - a. **Answers will vary:** Unity, salvation through grace and not works, mercy, etc.

SAY: "The BIG IDEA for the day is – Jesus' death gives us peace and new access to God." Now we are going to spend a few minutes reflecting on the passage and discussing how we might apply this to our life."

Reflect on the Passage:

1. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, what is the hardest thing about being a peacemaker?
2. Everyone close your eyes for a second.....(pause and wait).....picture the person, or group of people that would be hard for you to share Jesus with.....Are they rebels? Are they sinners?..... Open your eyes, the Bible says that we were all hostile towards God at one time. Following the course of the world. But praise God through Jesus we are at peace with God.
3. What does a deep and real relationship with the Lord look like now that we have been granted access to Him through Christ?

Say: "Remember, our BIG IDEA for the day is Jesus' death gives us peace and new access to God."

***START PASSING OUT "LIVE IT OUT" CARDS

Say: "Every week we like to take our Bible study beyond the 4 walls of the church. We are typically given 3 ways that we can Live Out the lesson we have learned. So today we are going to pass out these cards for you to take with you. We would like you to commit to practicing one of these during the coming week. Please take one of these cards and take a look at your options."

Live It Out:

Pray – Pray that the Father would forgive you of your sins and thank him for the access that you have to Him through Jesus. Meditate on how God is building you into a dwelling that He lives in by his spirit.

Read - Read his Word! Find time to read Ephesians chapter 2 in your own time, and reflect on how beautiful it is that God takes different people from different backgrounds and brings them together into one family.

Share - Share what the Father has done for you! Be bold and share your faith with someone this week. Everyone has access to the Father through Jesus Christ no matter their background. Share this with the people around you!

Say: "On the back of these live it out cards is a spot for prayer requests. We would love for you to write down a prayer request and then to swap cards with someone in this class. Once you have swapped with someone we are going to end our time with a prayer."

Pray: Now if you'll bow your heads and pray with us. "Dear Lord, thank you for your son, Jesus who was tempted in every way that we are, but remained righteous. We confess this morning that we have sinned against you by not trusting in you fully. Help us to trust you with all of our heart, and not to trust in ourselves. We love you Lord, Amen."

End class by saying: "Thank you all for having us this morning! We hope to see you next year!"