

WISH YOU WERE HERE

FAMILY DEVOTION



Week 5: Ephesians 2:11-22

1. For the first 3,000 years or so of the Jewish people, non-Jews (or Gentiles) were excluded from Jewish daily life & religious practices. Have you ever been excluded from something? What emotions did you wrestle with because of that exclusion?
2. Have you ever (intentionally or unintentionally) excluded others from something you were doing or from a group you associated with? Why do you think people do this?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 & Matthew 7:7-11. What do these verses tell us about our acceptance by God and our access to God? How is this a comfort for you if you are a Christ-follower?
4. In Ephesians 2:13 & 17, it mentions that Jesus preached peace to those who were far off. Who is someone in your life or sphere of influence who is far from God, and what are some ways you can exhibit peace to them?
5. At what time in your life have you felt God was the most distant from you? Why do you think God seemed distant? At what time in your life have you felt closest to God or sensed immediate access to God? What made God seem so close & accessible during that time?
6. Many times the Church has had a bad reputation for being against everything or everyone. Do you think that reputation has ever been fair or justified? Why?/Why not? What are some things you think the Church can do to reverse that negative stereotype?

This Week's Prayer

“God, thank you for taking me from the “out” category to the “in” category. Thank you for accepting me and reconciling me to yourself through Jesus’ death on the cross. Thank you for granting me direct access to you, day and night. And thank you for this new family I am a part of, called the Church. Help me and the Church to be people of grace and show others the kind of acceptance, patience, & love that you’ve shown to us. Help us to truly be for people and not against them. Help our light for You to shine brightly. Amen.”

