

## EPHESIANS

The Gospel shines through Ephesians from start to finish. Like a tree, the letter starts with strong roots beneath the surface, which allows for fruitful living. In a broad sense, the first half of Ephesians says, "This is who you are, by grace" and the second half says, "This is how you should live, by grace."



### WHEN YOU MEET:

Week starting Monday 7 April

#### Connect:

Spend some time greeting and welcoming each other.

#### Pause & Pray:

Take a few minutes to pause and clear your mind, letting go of what may be filling your heart and mind. Share with God what's going on for you at this moment. Allow Him to remind you that you are at home in Him and His immense love for you. He doesn't need anything else from you right now – just your stillness. Pray, asking God to speak to each person through the time together as we reflect on God's word.

**Read & re-read the passage:** Ephesians 2:11-22

#### Summary:

Hostility between human beings is not an invention of the twentieth century. It has run rampant since the fall of humanity, when we chose to be hostile to God. Alienation between individuals, nations, races, and even hostility between Christians is no stranger to us. The Bible speaks of human alienation – alienation from God our Creator and alienation from each other. Nothing is more dehumanising than this breakdown of human relationships. We are strangers in a world where we should feel at home, aliens instead of citizens.

#### Questions:

1. As you think about your world, what examples of hostility between groups of people come to mind?
2. The parallel between the two halves of Ephesians 2 is obvious. First comes a description of life without Christ: "dead" and "excluded". Then follows the great "But...God" and "But now". The main distinction is that in the second half, Paul is stressing the Gentile experience. What did Jesus do for the Gentiles?
3. What individual Christians or groups of Christians are you separated from (because of theological, cultural, denominational, racial, or economic differences)?





# EPHESIANS



## Questions:

4. Read Ephesians 2:14-18. How did Jesus bring the Jews and Gentiles together?
5. How does this passage encourage you about your relationship with God?
6. How does this passage encourage you about your relationship with other believers?

## Pray:

Praise God for bringing you so close to himself and to other believers when at one time you were so far away.

Ask him to work in you his grace to live out the truth that the dividing wall of hostility is down between all believers.

## MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: [grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/](https://grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/)
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>

