

GENERATIONAL NEEDS | A CRITICAL CHURCH MISSION

EPHESIANS 2:22

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:22 ESV

22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When you think about younger and emerging generations, what are some things that come to your mind?

SERMON RECAP

Generational Needs – A Critical Church Mission

- There's a new generation that needs to see the glory of Jesus.
- There's a new generation that needs to see the beauty of the church.
- There's a new generation that needs to see the power of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Ephesians 2:22 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - Who is included in this passage?
 - What does “dwelling place” mean in this passage? Where else do you see it in Scripture?
 - Is the Trinity evident in this passage – if so, how?
 - How would you summarize the primary message of Ephesians 2:22 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-13.
 - What spiritual blessings are secured for us in the heavenly places? (Eph. 1:3)
 - What is the source of our spiritual blessings and what does unity with Christ give us? (Eph. 1:4)
 - How is His love embodied to us in the Beloved? (Eph. 1:5-6)
 - What is the mystery that God revealed and how did He do it? (Eph. 1:7-10)
 - What is our inheritance and what does it mean that we are sealed into it? (Eph. 1:11-13)
2. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - To whom did God give apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers? What was his purpose in doing this? (Eph. 4:11-13)
 - What benefit does the church gain by utilizing the resources that God sent us? (Eph. 4:14)
 - How are we to grow up? What is the impact of growth on our own lives? What is the impact of growth on our church? How can we speak the truth in love? (Eph. 4:15-16)
3. Read Ephesians 2:22 again.
 - What new insight have you gained about being “in Him” (i.e., united with Christ)?
 - How does this passage relate to Christ’s church, its beauty, and to being “built together?”

- How does the presence and power of the Holy Spirit help us individually and as His church?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. There's a new generation that needs to see the glory of Jesus.
 - How are you personally seeing the glory of Jesus?
 - How does your Church Group personify the glory of Jesus?
 - How could you and your Church Group better share the glory of Jesus with the emerging generations?
2. There's a new generation that needs to see the beauty of the church.
 - How do you contribute to the beauty of the church?
 - How does your Church Group reflect the beauty of the church?
 - How are differences in your Church Group amplified more gospel-centrally when you speak the truth in love to one another?
 - How could you and your Church Group better demonstrate the beauty of the church to the emerging generations?
3. There's a new generation that needs to see the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - How well are you really leaning into the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - How does your Church Group rely on and rest in the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - How could you and your Church Group better serve as a conduit for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to the emerging generations by serving them, guiding them, and praying for them?

LEADER NOTES