

# MYSTERY

## LIFE GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

### RECONCILIATION, Ephesians 2:11-22 November 18, 2018

#### CONNECT

1. When have you experienced two divided parties coming together in unity? Tell a few of these stories.
2. What kind of cross-cultural relationships have you had? Share about those relationships.

#### CELEBRATE

3. One of the effects of Christ's death is to break down ethnic barriers and reconcile us all with the Father (Ephesians 2:14). How does this relate to our pursuit of reconciliation (racial, familial, political)? If this is what Jesus has done, what does it mean for us who are trying to be like Him?
4. In Ephesians 2:13-17, Paul describes those who are "far off," those who are "near," and those who are "one." Who are in these groups? More importantly, who establishes these positions?
5. "Peace" is used four times in Ephesians 2:11-22. Why do you think Paul is so captivated with the concept of peace? Why is this message still relevant to us today?
6. On a Sunday morning, imagine walking into a church that perfectly embodies this concept of peace. What would it feel like? What would you expect to experience inside?
7. Read John 17:21-23. What impact does reconciliation have on gospel proclamation? How will the world believe that Jesus came from the Father?
8. In the ancient world, those who belonged to a king's household were the elite, the privileged, the people with the power, the people who protected and governed their country. Based on Ephesians 2:19, who are we?
9. In Ephesians 2, how do verses 11-12 compare to verses 1-3? How does verse 13 compare to verse 4? What is Paul saying by using this formula?

#### CONTRIBUTE

10. God has strategically placed you in the lives of many people who are "far off" from Him. Who are these people? Write down three names. Take time to pray for each of these. Ask God how He wants you to love, serve and witness to these people He is gifting to you.
11. What areas in your life lack peace? Do you lack peace in any family relationships, friendships, work or school situations, or in your community? How can God bring peace in these areas through you as a "minister of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)? Take time to pray about the role God would have you take in each of these situations. Ask Him for strength.