

Life Group Topic #22 – Finding Home

WELCOME: (15 minutes)

What does the word “home” conjure up in your mind?

WORSHIP: (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group’s attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

WORD APPLICATION: (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

Ephesians 2:19-22:

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The kingdom of God is not a territorial jurisdiction, it is where God rules and gives to His people all the privileges and responsibilities His rule implies...we live under a common ruler, under common laws and share common privileges and responsibilities.

N.T. Wright writes that the role and expectation of the church is to live out today that which we anticipate in the future. We are to be practicing the songs of eternity presently and learning to live by the rules of the New Jerusalem even while we still are living in Babylon.

We are the new temple. And it is through us both individually and as a community that the world sees God. Between wars, denominations, church infighting, and very public condemnation of various streams of Christianity and those who subscribe to them – we have, perhaps, missed something.

Alienation, disunity and discord have no place in our midst.

How dare we build walls in the one and only human community where Jesus destroyed them?

To deliberately perpetuate barriers in the church is to be in opposition to the reconciling work of Jesus Christ. We are a new humanity, a model of human community, a family of reconciled brothers and sisters who love our Father and love each other, the very evident dwelling place of God. John 13:35 sets the standard...*by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

Love trumps doctrine, orthopraxy trumps orthodoxy, relationships take precedence over victory.

“You can either practice being right or practice being kind” – Anne Lamott

Application Questions:

Please keep in mind that these questions are meant as catalysts designed to get the group talking about life application.

1. Re-read verse 19. How does this statement impact you?
2. What does it mean to belong to a group, in this case “God’s household”?
3. How do we experience belonging?
4. What responsibilities come with belonging?
5. What is more important right belief or right action?
6. Can they be separated?
7. Do I practice being right or being kind?
8. Are we known by our love for one another?
9. What groups within Christianity do I dislike?
10. If the church is supposed to be a model community, why is it sometimes really messed up?

WITNESS: (15 minutes)

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Relational outreach always has the goal of ultimately enfolding those we reach into the Life Group.

Discuss the Church’s reputation in Abbotsford. How does this impact witness?