

# MOORPARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## LENT SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Discussion Questions for [Ephesians 2:1-22](#)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Week [2/18/18]

1. Open your group time with a brief prayer, inviting God's Spirit to lead you.
2. Tell everyone you'll start by practicing what's called "Lectio Divina" (prayerful reading). Ask everyone to close their eyes while you read Ephesians 2:1-22 out loud. Ask everyone to LISTEN for the words and phrases that especially speak to them.
3. Ask everyone to share what spoke to them. What are God's invitations to each person in this passage?
4. Focus on verses 1-3. Talk about times in your life when you were "dead in your transgressions, following the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan), gratifying the cravings of your desires."

Are you in some ways caught in this today?

5. Now focus on verses 4-5, 8-9. Talk about your own experience with God's grace.
6. Now read verses 14-16. In what ways have you been set free from hostility—with God, yourself and all others?
7. Now read verses 21-22. In what way is God's "building" (Church) supposed to embody a reconciling presence to the world? Why is this so important? What happens to the Cause of Christ when we get caught in hostility of any kind, especially with our brothers and sister in Christ?

**GETTING TO RECONCILIATION:** We need to get in touch with the "log" in our own eye FIRST (Mt. 7:3-5). Then we need to make a 7-A Confession: Address everyone affected by our sin; Avoid any form of excuse making; Admit ALL specifics of what we've done wrong; Acknowledge ALL hurt we've inflicted; Accept the consequences of our actions; Alter our behavior as needed; THEN . . . Ask forgiveness (AND NOT BEFORE!).

**EXPERIENCING TRUE FORGIVENESS:** DO Not dwell on it; do not bring it up and use it against the other again; do not talk about it to any others; do not allow it to stand between you ever again.

8. Where is reconciliation and forgiveness needed in your life today? Pray for one another. Also pray for any other particular need you've brought to this time.

For next week: Prayerfully live with Ephesians 3:14-21 each day this next week so you can come to our next meeting ready to share what God has said to you through God's Living Word.