

SMALL GROUP PREPARATION WORKSHEET

WORKSHOP ON BIBLICAL EXPOSITION

Name: Scott JacobsenText: Ephesians 2:11-22

INSTRUCTIONS: In your small group, you will have 5 minutes to present on each of your texts (one text each in two different small group sessions). For each, you should begin by stating the theme and aim of your talk on the text (see questions), and then walk us through how you arrived at your theme and aim. Please prepare a one-page handout on each text for your group that gives an overview of your work including, but not limited to, your answers to these preparation questions (10 copies).

1. Outline the **structure** of the text in a way that represents the author's organization of the text. Please provide an outline that clearly indicates verse breaks for each unit and provide headings. [*Consider grammar, repetition key terms, sequence, sudden grammatical/topical changes, rhetoric, etc.*]

- I. (11) Command to Remember the Ephesians Condition Before Grace.
 - a. A list describing the condition of the Ephesians in their Separation and alienation, "far off" (11-12)
- II. (13) "But Now" those far off have been brought near
 - a. (14-16) The Ephesian's Grounds for Inclusion
 - b. (17-18) the Ephesian's movement *in* from *out*
- III. (18-22) The Blessings of Inclusion
 - There is one imperative: *remember* (vs 11). This is the first imperative in Ephesians, and the only one until 4:25
 - Repetition of the word, "in" + dative (for Greek nerds): 2:11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22. The idea of location in Christ or in the flesh seems predominate.
 - There is a strong contrast in verse 13. The picture painted in 2:11, 12 is very bleak and dark, which serves as a strong contrast to what is to follow. This may or may not be a chiasmic structure, or parallelism.

2. What emphasis does the structure reveal?

The structure reveals a concern for *location*: this demonstrates the vast difference between those in Christ and outside of Christ. It shows a strong contrast between these two, and emphasizes what being *in Christ* means.

3. How does the immediate **context**—the passages on both sides of your text—inform the meaning of your text? [*Consider this immediate literary context first and the author's situation and the situation of the church or person to whom the letter was written second*]

- The one command in this passage, *remember* in verse 11. The "therefore" refers generally to the grace expressed in 2:1-10, but specifically to 1:10, "we are his workmanship." Our remembering is an explanation of the extent of Christ's workmanship in the Ephesians.
- The broader context is the idea of covenant and reconciliation.

4. Drawing on your work in structure, emphasis and context, state the central **theme** of the text in one complete sentence. [*A theme should reveal the author's big idea or primary point of the passage.*]

You were once on the outside of the covenant; but now in Christ, you are in the inside.

5. What are a few ways that your text **relates to the gospel** (i.e. the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, repentance, forgiveness of sins)? Which of these ways best fits your text? [*Consider New Testament references as well as different methods of connecting such as typology, analogy, promise-fulfillment, biblical theological themes, and others.*]

2:13-16 emphasize that the death of Christ accomplished the peace-making, thus making access to God possible. The ideas of substitutionary atonement, priesthood of Christ, Christ as peacemaker, are all present here.

6. In one sentence, what is the **author's aim** for his audience in this text? Given that aim, what **implication(s) and/or application(s)** for your audience would you draw out in your sermon?

Paul desires that that the Gentile Ephesians understand that the greatest racial and religious divide in the human race has been overcome by Christ.

On the back of this page and for your own benefit, you can sketch out a homiletical outline that you might use for the text.

Homiletical Outline:

- I. Where you were (2:11, 12)
 - a. In the flesh
 - b. In the World
- II. Where you are Now (2:13-18)
 - a. Being "In Christ" is your grounds for inclusion (2:13-14)
 - b. How you arrived (2:16-18)
 - i. In His flesh 14d
 - ii. In Himself 14b
 - iii. In One Body 16a
 - iv. In One Spirit 18
- III. The Blessings of Being in Christ(2:18-22)