**WEEK FIVE – THE WONDER OF BELONGING**

*Ephesians 2 v 11-22*

**WELCOME - involve everyone, introduce new people, mention absences**

*Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving. Use an ‘open/general’ question topic related that engages everyone*

When you think about the words ‘transformed’ and ‘brand new’, what have you come across (in nature, books, films, songs etc) that inspires you; what images or thoughts come to mind?

Pray that God’s Holy Spirit will give you a fresh insight into what it means to be transformed.

**WORD – ask key question related to the topic**

*Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don’t; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone*

**Questions**

1. Have you ever been in a situation in which you felt I just don’t belong here? What feelings did you experience?

1. What things do you think help people to feel that they belong to a church?

(e.g. acceptance; friendships; their contributions valued; etc.)

1. What things might cause people to erect a ‘dividing wall’ in a church?

(e.g. fear of letting people get too close; prejudices; etc.)

Take some time to rejoice together and express thanks to God for your new standing in Christ, that you have been:

* brought near to God
* reconciled – could use as a possible focus for communion
* given access to God as Father

1. In verses 19 -22 Paul speaks of how IN CHRIST, we have become:

* citizens of God’s kingdom
* members of God’s family; and
* part of God’s temple
  1. Which of these do you find the most exciting or special for you personally?
  2. Which of the three do you find the most practically challenging?

1. Roy spoke of how we need to be willing to be fully built-in to the temple of living stones which God is building with us. Are there matters which cause you personally to be nervous or cautious to become fully built-in to Redeemer Church?

*(Be mindful that this question may cause hurts from past bad experiences to surface which it may be appropriate to turn to prayer for individuals or it may be best to arrange for you or someone else appropriate to followed this up privately.)*

1. Roy suggested the following indicators of fully belonging to Redeemer:

Sharing your life with others in the church, including offering hospitality

Supporting others practically and in prayer

Serving in the church in some way

Giving financially

Is the Lord prompting you to take any practical action towards more fully belonging? – e.g. to sign up for the Get Connected evening on the 8th June

**WORSHIP**

*Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let’s read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let’s listen to this song, let’s sing now, let’s have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!\** ***BREAK BREAD REGULARLY\****

* Encourage prayers of thanks to God for His faithfulness.
* Introduce worship with scripture, exhortation and encouragement as to HOW to participate
* If you do songs;
  + provide lyrics so new people are not awkward/unknown songs are not unhelpful
  + Try to avoid videos with adverts

**MEMORY VERSE – get creative!**

‘And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.’ (Ephesians 2:22)

EG: Have the verse as individual words cut out in an envelope. Get the group to put them in the right order.

**PRAYER**

Get into twos or threes and share one prayer request and then pray for each other. Could you also commit to pray for each other through the week?

* Encourage spiritual gifts (e.g. prophecy)

**ACTION STEPS**

Turn to the action steps at the end of week one of the devotional and ask people to take time in the week to consider them.

Take some time to reflect with God. Are there new things He is leading you to explore? During the week find a trusted friend to talk these things through with.

**DELEGATE**

Who will do what next week?