

## Hands - application

- Pray for horizontal and vertical reconciliation in our community. What practical steps can we take this week to “build together”?



## Further notes

- Get involved with Action Junction on the weekend of the 5th-6th July!

Spring 2014

24th June

Ephesians 2:11-22

**One in Christ**

## Background for leaders

*This week we're continuing our series on Ephesians. Paul's letter was to the Christian church at Ephesus, in modern day Turkey.*

*The opening chapter and a half (from 1:1 - 2:10) is one long expression of praise and prayer at the good news of the Gospel. Paul explains what Christ has done for His people, and what the implications are before going on in the rest of the letter to encourage Christians in their response.*

*This Sunday, Paul spoke about the fact that the Gospel solves the problem of **alienation** - alienation from God, and alienation from others. Both are addressed in this passage, which develops as follows:*

*1st paragraph - what we once were ("at that time" v12)*

*2nd paragraph - what Christ has done ("but now" v13)*

*3rd paragraph - what we've become ("consequently" v19)*

## Conversation starters

- What do you make of the following quote from David Cameron? *"Jesus invented the Big Society 2,000 years ago, I just want to see more of it".*
- What are the vertical and horizontal implications of the gospel? Do we tend to focus on one aspect more important than the other?

## Head - context and culture

*Read Ephesians 2:11-22 — discuss the passage*

- How does Paul describe the people he's writing to in v11-12? *Gentiles* Paul (Perkin!) described a "five-fold deprivation". What are the five? *Christ-less, stateless, faithless, hopeless, Godless.*
- What are the "two" Paul is talking about in v15-16? How does this relate to us in 2014?
- How has the law been dealt with? Does that mean the Old Testament is now irrelevant to us?
- What are the different ways that Paul talks about peace in the passage? *Compare peace in v14, 15 and 17*
- How are the different persons of the Trinity at work in this reconciliation? *See especially v18 and 22*
- What are the three different ways Paul talks about God's people in the passage? *Compare God's people as 'kingdom', 'family' and 'temple'*

## Heart - what does this mean for us?

- Do you remember a time when v11-12 applied to you? What does this have to say to those of us who were brought up in the church?
- Is it appropriate or helpful to talk about the five areas of alienation in v11-12 with non Christians? Why or why not?
- What are the most obvious areas in our society where this horizontal reconciliation needs to be applied today?