

## **Can You See What I'm Saying? Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is something that you really enjoyed building or making as a child?
2. What is something that used to confuse you (perhaps as a child) but now seems obvious?

**Read the following passage:** Ephesians 2:1-22.

The apostle Paul was a remarkable figure. He had a radical commitment to Jesus and a radical commitment to the Gospel. What we sometimes forget was that he also had a radical commitment to a multiethnic church. For Paul, this latter commitment was inseparable from the other two. He gave his life to establish churches in which Jews and Gentiles worshiped together.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Paul, like most of his Jewish brothers and sisters, grew up with a set of beliefs that created barriers to walking in unity with Gentiles. How did your family experiences shape your approach to race, justice, and relationships with people from other races or ethnicities?
2. Embracing a shared identity can help a diverse group of people walk together in unity. What are some key elements of our shared identity as followers of Jesus Christ? (In addition to the passage above, consider also Ephesians 4:1-6.)
3. In Ephesians 2:13, 19 Paul writes that “in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ... you are no longer foreigners and strangers.” Have you ever felt like an outsider in the community of believers? Explain. What can we do to help other believers experience a sense of belonging in the community of God’s people?
4. Read Ephesians 2:14-16. Why might Paul have thought of the Law of Moses as a “barrier” and a “dividing wall of hostility” between Jews and Gentiles? What changed after Jesus’ death and resurrection?
5. In Ephesians 3:13, after describing his calling to build a multiethnic church, Paul writes, “I ask you... not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you.” What might it cost us to build a multiethnic church?
6. What are some of the benefits of building a multiethnic community of believers? Read Ephesians 3:10. What is God’s intention for the multiethnic church?

**Pray**