

Fully Alive

WEEK 7: BUILT INTO ONE

Ephesians 2:19-22 • STRENGTHENED BY GOD, Part 3

CORE PHRASE: We aren't just welcomed into God's house; in Christ, we are being built together into it.

Leader aim: Help people celebrate what God has built in this group, see belonging as part of the gospel rather than an optional add-on, and leave with a practical plan to stay connected through Advent and make room for someone new in January.

Video bridge: Brian has already traced the series: brought near, barrier broken, built into one. He closes by asking the group to notice what God has built among them, stay relationally connected during the Advent break, and identify someone they could invite when Growth Groups relaunch. Do not reteach the video; let tonight become a celebration and a sending.

Final-week posture - Celebrate and Send: This is the final Growth Group gathering before Advent. Leave room for gratitude, stories, and prayer. Most groups will pause their formal meetings, but Brian's invitation is important: a break from the meeting does not need to become a break from the relationships. Help the group make one simple connection plan before everyone leaves.

OPEN IT – Connect with Each Other

1. As you look back over this Growth Group season, what is one moment, conversation, prayer, or relationship you are grateful for? *Leader note: Let this breathe. Invite people to name ways they have seen God work in themselves or in one another. This is a chance to celebrate the group, not evaluate it.*

EXPLORE IT – Explore God's Word Together

Read Ephesians 2:19-22 aloud. Ask the group to listen for Paul's progression: citizenship, family, building, temple.

2. Paul moves from strangers to fellow citizens to members of God's household. What do those pictures tell you about what it means to belong to Jesus? *Key insight: Citizenship gives full standing; household gives relationship. In Christ, people once outside are not tolerated guests. They have a place, a name, a family, and a home.*

3. What does it mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone? What changes when we try to align ourselves to Him rather than expecting everyone else to align with us? *Key insight: Jesus is not merely one shared interest among many. He determines the direction and alignment of the whole structure. Unity is not sameness; it is different people being aligned to the same Jesus.*

4. Verses 21-22 say we are 'joined together' and 'built together' into a dwelling for God. What can we experience together that we cannot experience alone? *Listen for: being known, carrying burdens, receiving perspective, serving, forgiving, encouragement, correction, shared witness, and God's presence made visible through reconciled relationships. A stone by itself cannot become a temple.*

KNOW IT - Bring the Truth into Your Life

5. Where do you sense Jesus still inviting you to move from attending near His people to truly belonging, being known, serving, forgiving, or making room for someone else? *Leader note: This question is about participation, not guilt. Some may be carrying church hurt or hesitancy. Honor that story while gently holding up Paul's vision: belonging changes how we show up for one another.*

6. As Growth Groups pause for Advent, how can we stay relationally connected? Who could you begin praying for and invite when Growth Groups launch again in the new year? *Leader note: Make both parts concrete. Decide on one or two simple Advent touchpoints - a group text, coffee, meal, check-in, or prayer rhythm. Then invite each person to privately or publicly name one person they can pray for. No pressure; the goal is an open circle, not a recruitment quota.*

PRACTICE IT - Belong • Align • Build

THIS SEASON: BELONG - receive your place in God's family.
ALIGN - let Jesus be the cornerstone. BUILD - make room for someone else.

Advent handoff: Before the group leaves, agree on how you will stay connected. Remind everyone that the Fully Alive year is not finished. We will return to Ephesians and relaunch Growth Groups in the new year. Encourage people to come back - and, if God brings someone to mind, to bring that person with them.

PRAY IT - Depend on God Together

Consider praying around the circle. Thank God for specific ways He has used these people in one another's lives. Pray for what each person carries into Advent, for the names God has placed on your hearts, and for the Spirit to keep building this community even while the formal meeting rhythm pauses.

Prayer direction: Jesus, thank You for bringing us near and making us family. Thank You for what You have built among us. Keep us aligned to You, faithful to one another, and attentive to those who still feel outside. During Advent, help us be Your Church wherever we are. And when Growth Groups begin again, give us courage to make room for someone new. Amen.

LEADER REMINDER

The win for this week is that people leave able to say, 'God built something among us.' They know they belong to a people, not merely a service; they have a practical way to stay connected during Advent; and they are looking toward January with both a desire to return and a heart to make room for someone else. Belong, grow, and follow Jesus - together.