

Fully Alive

WEEK 6: THE BARRIER IS BROKEN

Ephesians 2:14–18 • STRENGTHENED BY GOD, Part 2

CORE PHRASE: Fully Alive means living from the peace Jesus has already made—
refusing to rebuild walls Christ died to tear down.

Leader aim: Help people see unity as a reality Jesus created at the cross, honestly identify a wall they may be rebuilding, and choose one wise, concrete step toward Christ's peace.

Video bridge: Brian moved from 'We were far; Jesus brought us near' to 'The barrier is broken.' He ends with three invitations: Name the wall. Name the person. Ask Jesus for one faithful step toward peace. Do not reteach the video; help the group make those invitations personal and practicable.

OPEN IT – Connect with Each Other

1. What is something that can make two people who are different from each other feel connected surprisingly quickly? *Leader note: Keep this light and relational. The purpose is to help the group notice that shared identity and shared experience can bridge real differences.*

EXPLORE IT – Explore God's Word Together

Read Ephesians 2:14–18 aloud. Ask the group to listen for what Jesus has already done and the new reality He has created.

2. Paul says Jesus Himself 'is our peace.' How is that different from simply trying to keep the peace or avoid conflict? *Key insight: Biblical peace is not polite distance or pretending differences do not exist. Peace is rooted in Jesus and in the reconciliation He accomplished.*

Context: The 'two groups' are Jews and Gentiles, divided by covenant history, religion, ethnicity, culture, suspicion, and hostility. Paul may evoke the Jerusalem temple barriers, but his claim is larger: in Christ, separation and hostility no longer define God's people.

3. What do you notice about the words Paul uses for what Jesus accomplished: made one, destroyed the barrier, reconciled, created one new humanity, and gave access to the Father? *Key insight: The verbs center on Christ's action. We do not manufacture Christian unity; Jesus created a new people through the cross. We learn to live consistently with what He has done.*

4. Verse 18 says both groups have access to the same Father through Jesus by one Spirit. What does that tell us about superiority, belonging, and our identity as God's family? *Listen for: Same Son. Same Spirit. Same Father. Same access. Nobody has a VIP entrance or second-class status. Both groups needed reconciliation and received the same grace.*

KNOW IT – Bring the Truth into Your Life

5. Where are you most tempted to rebuild a wall Jesus tore down—through a label, assumption, resentment, avoidance, or suspicion? *Leader note: Keep this personal. Do not let the group turn the question into a debate about political or cultural groups. Brian's question is 'Where am I rebuilding a wall?' Curiosity is more fruitful than accusation.*

6. If you are ready, who is on the other side of that wall? What is one faithful step toward the peace Jesus has already made? *Leader note: Do not pressure anyone to name a person publicly. A faithful step might be listening, apologizing, forgiving, praying, sharing a meal, or beginning an honest conversation. For some, the first step is asking God to change their own heart.*

PRACTICE IT – Name • Name • Step

THIS WEEK: NAME THE WALL. NAME THE PERSON. TAKE ONE STEP toward peace—
then let this circle help you follow through.

Pastoral guardrail: Reconciliation does not mean ignoring truth, erasing appropriate boundaries, returning to an unsafe relationship, or pretending trust has already been restored. Repair can take time. Encourage wisdom and safety while holding onto Paul's conviction that hostility cannot be our permanent posture toward another person in Christ.

PRAY IT – Depend on God Together

Thank Jesus that He Himself is our peace. Invite a quiet moment for the Spirit to bring a wall or person to mind. Then pray for courage, humility, wisdom, healing, and the grace to take the next faithful step without trying to control the outcome.

Prayer direction: Jesus, You are our peace. Thank You for bringing us to the same Father through the same Spirit and making us one new family. Expose the walls we rebuild without shaming us. Give us courage to tell the truth, listen well, forgive, apologize, and move toward the peace You have already made. Amen.

LEADER REMINDER

The win this week is that people leave seeing unity as more than friendliness or agreement. They recognize that Jesus has already made one new family, identify one wall they may be rebuilding, and discern one wise step toward peace. This is where a Growth Group becomes more than a Bible study—faith becomes personal, practiced, and lived out as we belong, grow, and follow Jesus—together.