

Peace with God

Monday, 10/6/08 – Read Ephesians 2:17-19

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Letter to the Ephesians wants us to know some things about our faith. Faith cannot be powerful and strong, it cannot support vibrant living, unless we cherish some basic understandings. Central is understanding that our relationship with God has been transformed. We are no longer “strangers and aliens” but “citizens” and “members of the household.” ... Do you recognize this transformation in your relationship with God? How would your living be different if you lived fully as a “citizen” of God’s new order, a “member” of God’s own household?

Tuesday, 10/7/08 – Read Ephesians 2:19 and Deuteronomy 10:17-22

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Have you ever felt like a “stranger” or an “alien” -- an outsider? Describe that situation for yourself, and jot down how you felt as an outsider. ... Have you ever felt like a stranger to God? Have you ever felt that God was a stranger? What was that like? ... Notice Deuteronomy 10:18 -- God loves the strangers. Can you claim that for yourself, even if you sometimes feel like a stranger?

Wednesday, 10/8/08 – Read Ephesians 2:19 and Acts 22:22-29

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In the Mediterranean world of the first century, being a Roman citizen was a big deal -- just as “citizenship” is a big deal in America today. ... Use your imagination. Imagine that you had lived as an undocumented person -- always afraid that you’d be found out. And imagine that then you were granted citizenship. Now you belong! ... That’s the transformation Ephesians wants us to grasp: in God’s new order, we are no longer “undocumented,” we are citizens! Will you today claim your citizenship in God’s new order?

Thursday, 10/9/08 – Read Ephesians 2:19 and Hosea 11:1-4

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Ephesians goes farther than “citizenship.” We are members of the family, God’s own family! ... Slowly read through Hosea 11:1-4 and let the tenderness and intimacy of God touch your heart. What would it be like for you to live as one of God’s own family, as one loved by God so intimately and tenderly?

Friday, 10/10/08 – Read Ephesians 1:11-14, 17-18

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Ephesians pushes the “family” metaphor a step further. As members of the family of God, we are in line to receive an eternal inheritance. This is our hope. ... Sometimes, when life seems difficult, when it seems like everything is coming apart, remember that our inheritance is

eternal, that God's plan for us is an eternal plan. Try it today; try seeing your life here and now as the beginning of a relationship that is eternal.

Saturday, 10/11/08 – Read **John 15:12-17**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: At the end of his ministry, Jesus used a different metaphor with the disciples to suggest the same transformation -- from servants to friends. Which of these metaphors is more helpful to you: from servants to friends -- or -- from strangers to citizens/members of the family? Or can you claim them both?

Sunday, 10/12/08 – Read **Ephesians 1:17
and **Romans 5:1-5****

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Whichever metaphor is used, the point is the same: our faith is a transformation of our relationship with God. Through Christ we are at peace with God. That doesn't necessarily mean that we live a peaceful, tranquil life. But at the center of life there is a peace in our relationship with God. Do you feel -- do you trust -- that you have been brought into peace with God? ... If not, jot down some notes about the tensions that still remain.

My Faith Journal, October 5, 2008
Becoming Grownups #4
Mom & Dad's Living Trust

What do I want to remember out of today's message?

What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.