



SEPTEMBER 2010 TEACHING PLANS

THE PATH OF GROWTH: DISCOVER GOD'S GAME PLAN

BY REBECCA GEORGE

Life is a whole lot easier when you know the game plan. Class schedules, syllabi, cafeteria opening times, student handbooks — they all come in handy when figuring out how to spend your days, weeks, and semesters. But are they enough to really make the most of your college years?

Thankfully, the resources we have for figuring out the game plan of life extend far beyond the materials professors and RA's provide. In the Book of Ephesians, Paul outlines God's eternal plan for His people. By poring over this playbook and understanding what God has done and is doing, you'll be ready to make the most of life. God has put you in the game, and now is your time to shine. So what will we cover in the playbook of Ephesians?

First, we'll look at the extent of God's redemptive plan and power. What does it mean for God's plan to be eternal? How does God's plan involve power, and how does that power change people and relationships? What role does grace play in God's plan, and how does God's power strengthen believers? After understanding the ins and outs of God's plan, we'll look at ways we can get with the program by being in step with the life of the church and living a Christian lifestyle. What does it mean to be pure? How can we live intentionally as Christians? How does God's plan relate to marriage? What does it look like to respect others? How does God train us to be ready for life?

So suit up and hit the field. See what God is teaching you through Paul's letter, and see how it applies to your life right now. With a playbook like Ephesians, God is equipping you to

live life according to His game plan. And with that kind of resource at your fingertips, you'll be ready to win.

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

The goal of the Collegiate online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here's a breakdown of what's inside: "Getting Started" helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. "Need to Knows" provide the lesson overview and key verses of each lesson. "Explore the Bible" leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. "Apply to Life" gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they're learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also utilize the commentary provided (threadsmedia.com/collegiate) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons.

As always, we're here for you. Please send us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and your ministry.

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THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 28 OF THE FALL ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "SAVIOR, PLEASE" BY JOSH WILSON FROM THE ALBUM *TRYING TO FIT THE OCEAN IN A CUP*

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about God's eternal plan of redemption. The emphasis is on God's unchanging plan to provide salvation through Jesus Christ. The lesson encourages college students to praise God for His plan to provide salvation.

FOCAL PASSAGES

EPHESIANS 1:1-14



MISTAKEN IDENTITY: FINDING OURSELVES IN CHRIST

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Savior, Please" by Josh Wilson playing in the background as students arrive.

Humans have a tendency to "taxonomize" — we like to categorize people and things into neat and tidy groupings.

- What kinds of categories do we use to identify each other?
- In what sense are these categories helpful? In what sense are they superficial?
- When it comes to a Christian's relationship with Christ, what factors make up our identity?

When God adopts us into His family, we take on a new identity that totally revolutionizes the way we view ourselves and our world. This week we'll be looking at the four facets of God's plan — His eternal plan of redemption — and the way that plan affects us.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 28 in the Fall 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for an engaging video clip suggestion and a challenging thought that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 28 of the Fall 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1) WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

READ EPHESIANS 1:1-2.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will: To the saints and believers in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have someone read "Who's Your Daddy?" on page 28 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Paul opened his letter with greetings to his readers, identifying them as being "in Christ."

- Why do some Christians resist identifying themselves with Jesus?
- What influencing factors encourage us to identify ourselves with things, people, or ideas other than Jesus?
- If we think of ourselves first as Americans, or students, or members of a certain group or family, and not as Christians, what's at stake?
- How does our identity affect the way we relate to other people?

When we find our identity in something other than Jesus, we run the risk of missing the point of life. And that's not a risk worth taking.

As believers, we have a close relationship with Jesus because of God's eternal plan to provide salvation. As part of that same plan, God has blessed Christians spiritually by choosing them for holy living and adopting them as His children.

2) GETTING REALLY GOOD GIFTS

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, in Christ; ⁴ for He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love ⁵ He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved.

Have someone read "Getting Really Good Gifts" on page 28 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Ephesians 1:3 kicks off the longest sentence in the original Greek Bible. It spans 12 verses and is the magnum opus of Paul's argument. There's a sense that Paul's so excited about what he's saying that he can't even slow down long enough for punctuation. And while Paul's syntax would earn him no A's in freshman English, it's understandable why he was so excited.

- Why is Paul so excited in verses 3-6?
- What are some of the specific spiritual blessings Paul references in these verses?
- What is God's purpose in blessing us spiritually?
- How aware are most Christians of the spiritual blessings of God?
- How does awareness of these blessings affect the way we live and the choices we make?

As Christians, we've been blessed in being chosen and adopted. God has redeemed us to provide Himself an inheritance, which is part of what He's planned to accomplish through Jesus from the beginning of time.

3) BAILED OUT BY GOD

READ EPHESIANS 1:7-12.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He planned in Him ¹⁰ for the administration of the days of fulfillment—to bring everything together in the Messiah, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him. ¹¹ In Him we were also made His inheritance, predestined according to the purpose of the One who works out everything in agreement with the decision of His will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in the Messiah might bring praise to His glory.

Have someone read "Bailed Out by God" on page 28 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What aspects of God's plan of redemption are understandable or discernible?
- What aspects of God's plan of redemption are mysterious?
- Why do some people view God's plan of redemption as a "Plan B"?
- If it were true that God's plan of redemption was His "Plan B," what would that say about God?

As Christians, we've been redeemed to become God's inheritance. We've also been sealed with the Holy Spirit as God's assurance of our inheritance.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

4) STRONGER THAN SUPERGLUE

READ EPHESIANS 1:13-14.

¹³ *In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—in Him when you believed—were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Have someone read “Stronger than Superglue” on page 29 of *Collegiate* magazine.

God doesn’t lose the people He’s saved, and the way He’s chosen to fulfill that promise is through the third Person of the Trinity — the Holy Spirit.

- If followers of Jesus could lose their salvation, what would that say about God?
- What makes some Christians question their salvation?

God’s eternal plan has been in effect since the beginning of time, and because of it we have a new identity, spiritual blessings, redemption, and security.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 30 OF THE FALL ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "EVERLASTING GOD" BY CHRIS MCCLARNEY FROM THE ALBUM *LOVE NEVER FAILS*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about Paul's first prayer for his readers. The emphasis is on having the spiritual insight to better understand the immeasurable extent of God's plan and power. The lesson encourages college students to seek a better understanding of God's plan and power.

FOCAL PASSAGES EPHESIANS 1:15-23



GETTING IT: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN AND POWER

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Everlasting God" by Chris McClarney playing in the background as students arrive.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."¹

- In what sense does this statement ring true?
- How does this notion relate to God's power?

God's eternal plan involves power, and we know a lot about God's character because of His power. This week we'll be looking at ways to have a better understanding of God's plan and power by praying for spiritual insight, expanding our spiritual understanding, and acknowledging God's power.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 30 in the Fall 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a quote and an engaging video clip suggestion related to the lesson.

1. <http://thinkexist.com/quotations/power/>

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 30 of the Fall 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1) EYES WIDE OPEN

READ EPHESIANS 1:15-17.

¹⁵ *This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,* ¹⁶ *I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.* ¹⁷ *I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

Have someone read “Eyes Wide Open” on page 30 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Paul prayed for his readers, thanking God for them and asking that they’d have the needed spiritual insight.

- Is strong faith something we tend to commend in one another? Why or why not?
- Who do you know on your campus with a Christian reputation like the Ephesians’?
- What does it look like to strive for and prioritize spiritual insight?
- Why is spiritual insight important? Why is it not enough to be satisfied with immature faith?

Paul prayed for his readers, thanking God for them and asking that they would have the needed spiritual insight.

2) GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE

READ EPHESIANS 1:18-19.

¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints,* ¹⁹ *and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength.*

Have someone read “Great Minds Think Alike” on page 30 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What’s the difference between cerebral knowledge of God and knowledge that permeates our lives and affects everything about us?
- How do we move from cerebral knowledge to intimate knowledge of God’s plan and power?
- How has your spiritual insight changed since starting college? What brought about those changes?

Paul framed his case in terms of wealth (“glorious riches of His inheritance” in verse 18). By doing this, Paul certainly would’ve had the attention of the poor and persecuted Ephesians. College isn’t necessarily a time of persecution, but it’s definitely a time that can foster feelings of poverty and weakness.

- How can this passage speak to you as a college student in a way that it might not speak to someone who’s wealthy, powerful, and settled?

When we’re poor in spirit, that’s when God shows up, and when His plan is all about Him — not about us. By praying for increased spiritual insight, we prime ourselves to experience greater understanding of God’s call, inheritance, and power. And the incredible thing is that God’s power is made available to us as His children.

3) EXERCISING POWER

READ EPHESIANS 1:20-23.

²⁰ *He demonstrated this power in the Messiah by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens—* ²¹ *far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* ²² *And He put everything under His feet and appointed Him as head over everything for the church,* ²³ *which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.*

Have someone read “Exercising Power” on pages 30-31 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Why does it matter that God is powerful?
- What evidence do you see of God’s power on your campus?
- What effect does knowledge of God’s power have on your daily life?

In the act of raising Jesus from the dead, God reversed the effects of the fall. Death didn’t have any hold on Christ, and it wasn’t strong enough to keep Him in the tomb.

Once God had raised Jesus up, He seated Him on a throne and put Jesus in a position of dominion and authority over creation.

ALSO READ ISAIAH 6:1-3.

¹ *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and His robe filled the temple.* ² *Seraphim were standing above Him; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* ³ *And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; His glory fills the whole earth.*

- How does this passage present the power and authority of Jesus?
- Why would it have mattered to the Ephesians that Jesus is in a position of power and authority?

To hear that God was in complete control would’ve been music to the ears of the Ephesians. And knowledge of God’s power can have the same effect on us.

- What specific aspects of life is God in control over?
- What difference does it make in your life to know that God is in control?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 32 OF THE FALL ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "THE SAVING ONE" BY STARFIELD FROM THE ALBUM *THE SAVING ONE*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about salvation by grace through faith. The emphasis is on experiencing the power of God in salvation. The lesson encourages college students to teach others how they can receive salvation.

FOCAL PASSAGES

EPHESIANS 2:1-10



GROWING UP WITH GOD

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "The Saving One" by Starfield playing in the background as students arrive.

Our culture makes it easy to not focus on our own sin.

- What aspects of culture encourage us to ignore or gloss over personal sin?
- How do the people you encounter in class view sin? What would your professors have to say about the concept of sin?
- What's at stake if we fail to recognize the severity of sin and its consequences?

Through His power, God has made salvation available to us. But in order to receive God's salvation, we must first come to terms with the nasty reality of our sin.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 32 in the Fall 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a quote and an engaging video clip suggestion related to this lesson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 32 of the Fall 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1) DEATH BY SIN

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-3.

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to this worldly age, according to the ruler of the atmospheric domain, the spirit now working in the disobedient. ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and by nature we were children under wrath, as the others were also.

Have someone read “Death by Sin” on page 32 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Sin characterizes each and every one of us. From the porn-addicted fraternity brother to the campus ministry leaders, every one of us is characterized as a sinner. Without salvation, we’re enemies of God. We’re full of wrath and rebellion, and we certainly don’t deserve life with God.

- How would your family members react to those kinds of statements about sin?
- What are your own reactions to those statements?
- Why do we resist labeling ourselves as sinners?
- Before you began following Jesus, how did you view yourself? Did you have an understanding of your sin?

In these three verses, Paul uses logical jargon that’s typical of him. He pulls no punches in telling us we’re depraved. But if you look closely, he not only says “you” when calling out sin — he says “we.” Paul is confessional throughout this passage, which probably sheds light on the close relationship he had with the Ephesians.

- When are you most comfortable talking to someone about personal sin (either yours or theirs)?

- If you were to start a conversation with a good friend about sin, how would you do it?

The incredible thing about salvation is that while we were still dead in our sins, God put into place the sacrifice that would give us life.

2) LIFE BY GRACE

READ EPHESIANS 2:4-7.

⁴ But God, who is abundant in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, ⁵ made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. By grace you are saved! ⁶ He also raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Have someone read “Life by Grace” on page 32 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What have we gained by God’s decision to save us?
- From this passage, what can we conclude about God’s motivation in saving us?
- Because of God’s grace, what should be our relationship with God and Jesus?

We can’t save ourselves. In a stunning display of His grace, God acted in love and gave life to His followers. Our salvation is the result of God’s amazing grace.

Even though our good deeds won’t earn us salvation, they’re a logical result of the gratitude we have for the salvation God’s given us.

3) WHY WE WORK

READ EPHESIANS 2:8-10.

⁸ For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— ⁹ not from works,

so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are His creation— created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

Have someone read “Why We Work” on pages 32-33 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What are the “good works” Paul is talking about?
- What are the different motivations people have for doing good works? Which of these motivations line up with these verses in Ephesians 2?
- How can you ensure your motivations for doing good works are right?

These verses are another way of saying Romans 1:17, which was the linchpin of the entire Protestant Reformation.

ALSO READ ROMANS 1:17.

¹⁷ For in it God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

- Why is the distinction between being saved by works and being saved for works so important?
- Practically speaking, how can Christians present to the world a clear picture of why we do good works?

God has created us to do good works. He intends for us to live out and express our salvation not centripetally (moving toward the center), but centrifugally (moving away from the center).

- What does centrifugal living look like in Christianity?
- How does knowledge of sin, grace, and works affect centrifugal living?
- Is it possible for a person to be a Christian and not committed to sharing the truth about sin, grace, and works? Why or why not?
- How can we help each other stay focused on evangelism?

We can’t do anything to earn salvation, but we can do all the good we can to show we’ve received it.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 34 OF THE FALL ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "HEALING BEGINS" BY TENTH AVENUE NORTH FROM THE ALBUM *HEALING BEGINS* — *SINGLE*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about God's work in Christ to unite Jews and Gentiles into His one, new people. The emphasis is on the new relationship Christians have with one another. The lesson encourages college students to relate to other believers in ways that express their unity.

FOCAL PASSAGES EPHESIANS 2:11-22



UNITED IN CHRIST: HOW GOD CHANGES RELATIONSHIPS

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Healing Begins" by Tenth Avenue North playing in the background as students arrive.

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she relates to other people. Think back over the classes you've attended this week and the meals you've shared with friends.

- When has that proven true this week? What interactions have you witnessed, and what have those interactions revealed about the people involved?
- Think about some interactions you've witnessed between Christians you know. Without getting too specific, what did those exchanges reveal about those people's relationships with God and one another?

God's power changes people. There's a definite connection between being saved by God and relating to His people. This week, we'll look at that connection and see how well our lives express it.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 34 in the Fall 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a quote and some additional verses related to this lesson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 34 of the Fall 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1) BROUGHT TOGETHER

READ EPHESIANS 2:11-13.

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called “the uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised,” done by hand in the flesh. ¹²At that time you were without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, with no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.

Have someone read “Brought Together” on page 34 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In these verses, Paul compares non-Christians to foreigners in the land. He characterizes non-Christians as living without hope — the ultimate illegal alien, so to speak. When we’re in Christ, we’re not foreigners but citizens of a new kingdom.

ALSO READ HEBREWS 11:8-10.

⁸By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, co-heirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

- For Abraham, what did it mean to be a “foreigner in the land of promise”? What was he waiting for?
- Now that Jesus has come, we’re the recipients of His promises and have traded in our status as outsiders. Practically speaking, what has changed for us?

We hear a lot these days about illegal immigration.

- How can the discussion on illegal immigration shed light on this passage?
- How can this passage shed light on the discussion about illegal immigration?

In these verses, Paul contrasts the Ephesians’ lives before they found God with their lives after they received Him. Though once separated from God and His people, these Gentile believers had been brought into God’s family through the death of Jesus.

- Think back to the time before you began following Jesus. What were your relationships like?
- Do relationships between non-Christians differ from those between Christians? How?
- How have your relationships changed since you became a Christian?

Christians have been brought into the family of God, and as a result we’ve received enormous privileges. We also have the giant responsibility to strive for unity with one another.

2) JOINED TOGETHER

READ EPHESIANS 2:14-18.

¹⁴For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In His flesh, ¹⁵He did away with the law of the commandments in regulations, so that He might create in Himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. ¹⁶He did this so that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross and put the hostility to death by it. ¹⁷ When Christ came, He proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Have someone read “Joined Together” on page 34 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Paul wasn’t in Galilee when Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9). However, Paul received word of that message, and he knew that peace and reconciliation were important to God. This reconciliation isn’t only a matter of God reconciling the world to Himself through Christ, which He planned to do and accomplished with great accuracy and ability, but it’s also God reconciling us to one another.

- Why do humans need to be reconciled with one another?
- In Ephesians, who are the groups God was reconciling?
- Why was circumcision such a big deal in the first century?

In Paul’s day, there was a lot of hostility between the Jews and the Gentiles, especially over the issue of circumcision. But fractured relationships aren’t unique to Paul’s day.

- In what ways are Christians divided today? What issues tend to separate us from one another?
- Which of these issues are legitimate, and which aren’t? How do we know?
- On your campus, how have you put aside your own preferences for the sake of unity with other Christians?
- Why should we strive for unity in the church?
- What should we be willing to sacrifice for the sake of Christian unity?

In His death, Jesus destroyed the differences that separated Jews and Gentiles in order to reconcile them to God and to unite them into one people in His body, the church. As a result of Jesus’ death, we have peace with God and are united with all of God’s people. We express these truths by living in peace with one another.

3) BUILT TOGETHER

READ EPHESIANS 2:19-22.

¹⁹So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹The whole building is being fitted together in Him and is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

Have someone read "Built Together" on pages 34-35 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Foundations of first-century Jewish synagogues had massive cornerstones that supported the foundation and aligned the other stones. On his three missionary journeys, Paul would've seen this building technique as he traveled throughout Asia Minor. On those journeys, he was raising money for Christian building projects in Jerusalem, but he was also overseeing the construction of a "universal temple" where every church forms a stone with Christ as the cornerstone.

These Gentiles in Ephesus had become citizens of God's kingdom and members of His family. They were being built together into a temple for God.

- **The universal church comprises all of Jesus' followers who have ever lived. Based on what we know about the temple in the Bible, what does it mean that the universal church is being built into the temple?**
- **How is the imagery of the universal church being built together helpful for understanding Christian unity?**
- **In terms of building imagery, how would you describe the American church today?**

Christians are being made into the earthly dwelling place of God, and we reveal that by relating to one another in ways that are consistent with the Spirit's presence.

- **How does God's presence affect the way we relate to one another?**

