

# Small Group Discussion Outline



**Read: Ephesians 2:19-22**

There is a natural progression in this passage from separation to inclusion, from being an individual to becoming a family member and from people who don't belong and don't fit in with the plans of God to being recreated and aligned with Jesus as essential, living parts of His purpose.



**1. What do you think it means to be a foreigner ?**

A foreigner is known as someone from a different country, but it has also become a vague kind of insult or a term used for someone excluded from a group. An outsider. It was a word used primarily to describe transients, people who didn't belong, who wandered in and out of places never being a member



**2. What does it mean to be an alien?**

No this is not in relation to little green men! The word alien is used to describe our former state again just like the word foreigner and it is very closely related to the word foreigner. The major difference in these two words is that alien refers specifically to someone from another country who has settled in a new land but has no rights as a citizen. Aliens exist purely at the mercy of the rulers of the nation in which they settle.

Without Jesus the bible describes us as foreigners and aliens but, we are given the opportunity to become citizens of the kingdom of God.



**3. What does it mean to be a citizen of God's people?**

God has given us citizenship in His Kingdom. The dictionary defines citizenship as "The status of a citizen with its attendant duties, rights, and privileges." God has given us the rights, duties and privileges of His kingdom.



**4. Discuss what some of these rights, duties and privileges are? (e.g. authority, health, provision etc.)**



**Read: Galatians 3:26**



**5. What does it mean to be a family member?**

## Ephesians #7 Finding Our Place

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Being a family member means we are accepted for who we are. We all play a part in our family and its something we need to rely on and draw strength from. Citizenship, as deep as it goes and as important as it is, can still potentially be stripped from us. Belonging to a family however is a relationship a membership which is because of something inside us, its because of the blood.

Belonging to God's family is a privilege we share because as Christians, we've identified with and appropriated Jesus' blood for our own. His blood shed on calvary is the reason and source of our new life.



**6. What happens to us and our family of believers if we don't disown our old identity as foreigners, outsiders and aliens and take on our new identity as citizens of God's kingdom and members of His family?**

If we hold onto our old mindset of being foreigners and aliens not accepted by God or being included in the promises He offers us through His word we will miss out on what is rightfully ours as children of God. We will continue to act like outsiders when we are offered so much more in God. Our mind sets need to be one that realises the word of God as the truth and fights for the realisation of that truth in our lives. We need to change our mindsets to one that believes we are citizens and members of Gods family and all that that includes.



**7. How do we fight for the realisation of the truth of God in our lives?**

One of the most powerful and effective ways in which we can exercise the rights of our citizenship and the privileges of our family membership and value the part God has called us to in fulfilling His purposes is through prayer.

Pastor Jack Hayford describes prayer as "invading the impossible." To truly pray like Jesus prayed we need to realise who God has made us to be and pray with boldness, pray with authority, with expectation, with assurance that God not only delights to hear our prayers but delights in responding to them as well.

Don't be robbed of your citizenship in God, stand up and fight for it through prayer.



**8. Take a moment and think about your life, is it a life that reflects that you are a citizen of God? and a member of God's family? Write down in the space below some of the areas you would like to see changed through prayer.**

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**9. If you are comfortable sharing in your group, and as appropriate, choose one item from the list you've written above and pray, as a group, for God to release the privileges of your citizenship in His Kingdom into this area of your life.**

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