For Sunday 8th November 2026

Passage: Ephesians 2.11-22

St Peter's
COLCHESTER

St Peter's Kids Resources

Welcome to the resources for St Peter's Kids.

Each Sunday, Seekers and Diggers will normally explore the same Bible passage or theme as the rest of the church, in ways that are right for their different ages.

Our hope is to help the children:

- engage seriously with the Bible;
- grasp one clear central truth;
- understand why it matters;
- respond appropriately to God;
- enjoy being together and build good relationships.

How to use these resources

These are resources, not a script. Please use your knowledge of the children and your own strengths as a leader, and feel free to adapt what is here. You certainly do not need to use everything suggested.

A simple, engaging conversation about the Bible can be far more valuable than an elaborate activity. The aim is always to help the children understand, remember and respond to God's word.

Seekers and Diggers

- Seekers – Reception to Year 2: keep things short, concrete and interactive, using repetition, movement, visual material and questions they can genuinely answer.
- Diggers – Years 3 to 6: give children real opportunities to read the Bible, notice things in the text, think, question, discuss and respond. Aim for material that stretches them without feeling childish.

What about craft?

Craft can be a great way to reinforce the Bible teaching or help children respond, but it is entirely optional. If you enjoy using craft and it genuinely helps the session, please do. If it does not, there is absolutely no need to include it.

Summary

- Paul reminds Gentile Christians that they were once far from God's promises and separated from his people.
- Through Jesus' death, those who were far away are brought near. Christ himself is our peace.
- In Christ, former strangers belong to God's household and are being built together as a place where God lives by his Spirit.
- Key verse: Ephesians 2:14
- Aim: To help children see that Jesus brings people near to God and makes them one people who belong together.

Things to notice in the passage

- Paul is speaking about the historic separation between Jews and Gentiles. God had made promises to Israel; Gentiles were outside that covenant story.
- Paul asks the Gentile Christians to remember their past so that they will recognise the grace they have received. He is not asking them to feel ashamed or superior to Jewish people.
- Verse 13 is the turning point: those who were far away have been brought near through Christ.
- "Christ himself is our peace" means more than Jesus telling people to be peaceful. Through his death, he reconciles people to God and breaks down the hostility between groups.
- Paul says Christ makes "one new humanity" from the two. The gospel does not require one group to become the other; both come to God through Christ.
- The images in verses 19–22 move from strangers, to citizens, to a household, and finally to a building where God lives by his Spirit.

Possible approach for Seekers

From wall to doorway: Build two little block structures with a wall between them. Ask what the wall makes difficult. Read Ephesians 2:13–22, then take down part of the wall and use the blocks to make a joined building with a doorway.

Explain: some people were far away from God's promises and from one another. Jesus brought them near through the cross and made them part of God's family.

Ask:

- Who brings people near: Jesus or the people themselves?
- What does it mean to belong to God's family?
- How can we help someone feel welcome when they are new?

Keep returning to: **Jesus brings us near to God and makes us one family.**

Possible approach for Diggers

Read Ephesians 2:11–22. Invite the children to find the words and pictures Paul uses for separation, peace and belonging. They could mark "far", "near", "peace", "one", "strangers", "household" and "dwelling place".

Questions:

- What made Gentiles outsiders in verses 11–12?
- What has Christ done in verses 13–18?
- Why is the cross central to the peace Paul describes?
- What do "citizens", "household" and "dwelling place" tell us about belonging?
- Does this passage say that all differences disappear? What does it say is now shared?
- What might make someone feel on the edge of a group? What could welcome look like?

Ask: "If Jesus has brought us near to God and to one another, what might change about the way we treat someone who is new, quiet or outside our usual friendship group?"

Connecting it with St Peter's

- The passage's specific focus is Jews and Gentiles brought together through Jesus. Remembrance Sunday can help us think about hostility and loss, but the passage is not a simple promise that all wars will end.
- Remember those who served and died with care. Do not ask children to share personal experiences of war or bereavement.
- At St Peter's, belonging can mean noticing people beyond our usual friendship groups and helping them feel part of the church family.

Possible activities

- **Wall to welcome**: Give children cards with examples of actions that keep people apart or welcome them. Place "apart" cards along a block wall, then remove them and make a doorway. Discuss how Christ makes peace and how we can welcome others.
- **Welcome choices**: Describe a new child arriving, someone sitting alone, or someone who does not know the routine. Ask what a welcoming response could be.
- **Quiet remembrance**: Invite children to draw or name something they are thankful for, or someone they would like to pray for. Do not require anyone to share.

A note for leaders

Keep Jew–Gentile reconciliation as the passage's meaning. Do not suggest that Jewish identity or God's earlier promises were bad, or that every difference must disappear. Paul's point is that both groups need Christ, and that through his cross God makes them one new people. Remembrance may help children think about hostility and loss, but do not equate military service or death with Jesus' unique saving death. Avoid pressuring children to discuss difficult experiences.

Prayer

- Thank Jesus for bringing us near to God.
- Pray for people affected by war and conflict.
- Thank God for people who serve and care for others.
- Ask God to help us welcome one another and live as one family.