

NEW CREATION

: A new community [Ephesians 2:11-22]

1. The church is to be a living sign of reconciliation and peace

The gospel literally means good news - for everyone - that all can be reconciled to God. There are no longer any dividing walls between those who are worthy and those who are not. Because of Christ's work on the cross, all are welcome and are being gathered together for God's glory. 'We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord' (Ephesians 2:21)

2. What does it mean to be a 'New Community'?

Radical inclusion is in the blueprint for God's church but historically we've not always done that well. It was very counter cultural in the first century early church and is now, as well, especially in modern Western society where we are used to making individual choices and community engagement on our own terms. But this is how God is bringing all of creation back together, through Christ's Church, as a foretaste of the vision in Revelation 7:9 of a greatly diverse multitude of people.

3. How can we live out this calling more faithfully?

Recognise - our human tendency to tribalism, and where we may have unconscious bias.

Reflect - Is there anyone that you find it difficult to see the image of God in?

Resist - Refuse division, prejudice and tribalism by actively pursuing unity, hospitality and peace

Repent - Confess to God where we have fallen short of our calling. Allow His spirit to renew your mind.

GROUP ACTIVITY you will need: paper and pens for each person. Designate a leader.

Everyone in the group writes down the initials of 10 people they trust (eg. for advice, to do something) who aren't from their immediate family. They won't have to share these names at any point unless they want to.

The leader calls out a variety of categories / classifications, eg. age, gender, accent, ethnicities, profession, etc.

Each participant places a tick next to the person on their list who shares the same characteristic with them - so for example for Gender, women place a tick next to all females on their list.

DISCUSS Evaluate your lists honestly. Are most people within your circle of trust people who share backgrounds and characteristics? This is very common, but being aware of implicit bias can help us extend our trust to people who are different to us.

'The church is more widely known for what it is against than what it is for'
DISCUSS the above statement. How can Springfield become more clearly a living sign of reconciliation and peace, compassionate, where everyone can belong and find hope in Jesus? What steps could you as individuals and as a group take towards making that vision a reality? This week? This year?

We believe our God-given vision is see: thriving communities springing up, where everyone can belong and find hope in Jesus.

Group Sunday message notes 2026

