

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 25, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** Christ, The Cornerstone

Main Text: Ephesians 2:14-22

Key verse: *Ephesians 2:20 – “Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.” (NLT)*

INTRODUCTION: As we continue with our quarter series, we come to another bedrock of the Christian faith – Christ the Cornerstone. According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, a Cornerstone is something extremely important because everything else depends on it. In ancient times, a cornerstone was a useful part of a building placed at a corner of the building to guide the workers in their work, ensuring that everything else was aligned and measured correctly. One of the things that needed to be brought into alignment was the relationship between Jews and Gentiles (i.e. Everyone who is not a Jew), and how this dysfunction was affecting God’s plan for humanity.

1. Read Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:14-16: (a) How did the passage describe the relationship between Jews and Gentiles and what was the source of the problem? (b) What did Christ do to resolve the problem? (c) Let participants describe the result of Christ’s solution to the problem and how that relates to our topic and theme.

Christ’s death on the Cross paved the way for Jews and the rest of humanity to have an equal stake and claim to membership of God’s family – the Church universal. That is not all the alignment that Christ brings as the Cornerstone of the Christian faith. When a child is adopted into a family, the birth children of the couple have something the adopted child(ren) don’t and will never have – the DNA of the birth parents. And this can be a constant source of tension between both sets of children, and for the adoptive parents too. It is something that merely changing the adopted children’s surname, giving both sets of children equal rights on their will can never resolve. So, Jesus Christ goes beyond the legal and external formalizations to cut to the DNA.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:18, 3:12 (a) Ephesians 2:18 says ‘Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit ...’ What do you make of that statement? (b) How important is this statement to you as a non-Jewish believer?

Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of our faith; He makes our faith stronger, giving us equal standing with the Jews. According to Ephesians 2:19, “... *You(we) Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God.*” (CEV). But there is much more.... The Apostle Paul tells us ‘*we are also His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets...*’ (Ephesians 2:20 NLT). Continuing that thought, he further states that Christ gave to the Church the five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists pastors, and teachers, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry”, that is building up the Church to execute His will (Ephesians 4:11-13). But as Psalm 118:22 says, some people rejected Jesus Christ as the Cornerstone and built their own. Examples are the tower of Babel and the religious structure in Jesus’ days on earth. And the same is happening today in various forms.

3. Read Ephesians 2:19-20, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 2:4-6 (a) How would you explain the idea that we are Christ’s house? (b) Christ gave to His Church apostles, teachers, etc. for the building of His house (Ephesian 4:11-13). What role does Christ as Cornerstone play in this building process? (c) What can happen when we reject Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of our lives and ministry?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, Beacon from which and by which we align our lives and ministry. Please help each one of us to stay aligned with and to YOU in every aspect of our lives and ministry to the glory of YOUR Name. Amen*
