

Behold, a New Thing

Where You Were

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:3-8. Why was it so important for the Israelites to remain distinct and set apart from the Gentile nations around them? How might that have led to hostility between Jew and Gentile? Why did God choose Israel to be His people – was it because they were better than all the rest?
2. What do you think Paul meant when He said you were “without hope in the world” (12)? How important is hope to our lives on earth? Can you share an example from your testimony of what it was like for you to be “without God in the world”? How are things different for you now?

What Happened

3. What phrase describes the Gentiles’ relationship with Christ before they were saved (12)? How are these same Gentiles closer now through the blood of Christ? (13; review 1:7).
4. Some translations of v. 15 make it sound as though Jesus destroyed the Law in His death. From Matthew 5:17-18, what did Christ say about the Law, and what does it mean that He fulfilled the Law? Back to 2:15 – what do you think Christ destroyed (abolished) here?
5. Paul tells us that Christ himself is our peace (14) and that through the cross He has destroyed hostility between humans (16). How does the cross help reconcile people to each other?
6. How has Christ “preached peace” (17) to you personally and to your household?

Where You Are Now

7. What is the building God is making in verses 19-22? Who is the corner stone? Who were the first building bricks? Where do you fit in?
8. What is the purpose of this building? How should that purpose be reflected in our lives? Be practical!