

Model of unity and reconciliation

Ephesians 2: 11-22

John 17: 6-12

You may have come across the Swedish Bible Study method – nothing very Swedish in it (!), but first discovered in a student study group in Sweden. Very simple in approach, but allows the discussion to go where the group are led. 3 symbols guide the discussion.



Start with the passage in Ephesians – and read it together as a group. For a different ‘take’ you might like to read it a second time in The Passion (click [here](#)) or The Message (click [here](#)).

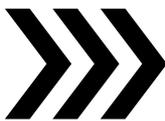
- What shines out from you from the passage?
- You are likely to have read it before – what strikes you this time – anything new or surprising?

(it is likely that different verses will speak to different members of the group – so give the discussion time for new insights and perspectives)

You may like to repeat with the verses in John (The Passion – click [here](#), or The Message – click [here](#).)



Do these verses raise any questions for you – it may be over something that hasn’t struck you before or something you have always wondered about? The advantage of voicing these in a group is the rich discussion that can be generated – and different perspectives.



Having gained a deeper understanding of the passage from your discussions, how do we apply the learnings and insights to our lives.

The sermon highlighted 3 ‘hallmarks’ of this heavenly family:

1. Supernaturally created
2. Full of freedom and forgiveness
3. This family is forever, and there are no strangers

Which of these hallmarks do you find particularly encouraging or challenging?

Some further questions:

1. Do our daily lives reflect the bigger family we are part of?
2. How in our immediate church family can we love each other, be patient, forgiving, kind and serving – particularly in Covid times when needs may be hidden?
3. Is there anywhere in our immediate circles or further afield where we see division – how can we be a force for unity and distinctly different?