

Session 3 Break Down Walls

Worship Setting

The photos taken during the prior service should be added to the worship setting. This service is well suited for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As part of the worship setting, the Communion should be placed on a table along with a graphic representation of walls surrounding it. Prior to the prayers being offered on the bread and wine, the "walls" will be taken down.

Centering Thoughts

But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of hostility that kept us apart.

—Ephesians 2:13–14 The Inclusive New Testament

These words provide a very distinct message. Christ's sacrifice created a way for the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile to be torn down. The walls are of our own human making. Walls are constructed based on our view of society, our own learning, and the realization that we live in a global community. This global community of diversity creates dilemmas that perpetuate walls rather than tearing them down. Coming together in unity provides an opportunity to acknowledge shortcomings, make amends, and create new relationships. The very act of Communion acknowledges that corrective measures are needed to recommit to living Christ's peace out in our everyday lives. In the second chapter of Ephesians the author writes:

Christ came and "announced the Good News of peace to you who were far away, and to those who were near"; for through Christ, we all have access in one Spirit to our God. This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God's holy people, and are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone. In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in Our God; in Christ you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

—Ephesians 2:17–22 The Inclusive New Testament

It is interesting to note that while we tear down walls by being in communion and fellowship, we are also growing into a holy temple. Thus the challenge of understanding Christ's peace may be the recognition that while we tear down we also build up.

Praise Singing

“The City Is Alive, O God”	<i>HS 375</i>
“Let Your Heart Be Broken”	<i>HS 377</i>
“Canto de Esperanza”	<i>SP 25</i>
“We Are Called to Be Peacemakers”	<i>SP 23</i>

Call to Worship: Doctrine and Covenants 162:4b, 6b

Song of Invitation: “This Is My Song”

HS 315

Prayer of Invitation**Focus Moment**

Share the book *The Coconut Monk* by Thich Nhat Hanh (Plum Blossom Books, 2006), ISBN 1-888375-53-1. In a war-torn world filled with images of violence, this story offers reassurance and a reminder that peace can be found through empathy. This book uses the image of a cat and a mouse and their smiling friend the Coconut Monk as metaphors for overcoming seemingly unconquerable divides of nature, nation, and belief.

Hymn: “O Jesus, Master, When Today”

HS 422

Words of Affirmation/Communion Remarks

See Centering Thoughts at the beginning of this service. Focus on the concepts of diversity, unity, and communion. The Ephesians 2 scripture provides a good starting point to discuss tearing down walls and coming together in unity.

Song of Preparation: “Eat This Bread”

NS 8

Take down the wall surrounding the bread and wine in the worship setting.

Communion Prayers and Serving of Communion

Vignette: “Builders”—An Observation of Building

see below

Disciples’ Generous Response

Scripture: Mosiah 2:32

Prayer

Sung Response: “Seek Ye First”

NS 44

Song of Reflection: “Lord of All Nations”

HS 467

Benediction

Vignette: “Builders”—An Observation of Building

ED: *(enters with armful of lumber)*

FRED: *(overconfident, enters with armful of lumber)* Hi, neighbor. *(turns)*

ED: Hi. *(turns)* Oh, you must be the new guy in town that everyone is talking about.

FRED: Sure am.

ED: My name is Ed Flanders. Welcome to Pleasanton. *(extends hand)*

FRED: *(drops lumber, grabs Ed's hand)* Hi... *(lumber falls on foot, dances around in pain)* Ah! Oh, I hate it when I do that.

ED: You do that often?

FRED: Only since I started building my house. Everybody wants to shake my hand when I'm carrying lumber.

ED: This is a very friendly town. Let's start again. My name is Ed Flanders.

FRED: *(bends down picks up two pieces of lumber, notices Ed's hand, drops lumber on toe again, extends hand)* Ah! Now that was nearly stupid.

ED: Listen, let's just dispense with the hand shaking.

FRED: Good idea. My name is Fred Nillman. *(crouches, picks up lumber)* So, everybody is talking about me, huh?

ED: They sure are.

FRED: What are they saying about me? Are they saying what a fast worker I am?

ED: Well, actually....

FRED: I'm sure everybody noticed that I started building my house when you were half way through building yours, and I'm going to finish my house first.

ED: Some of them did mention that you were hurrying.

FRED: I knew it. I'm a good builder.

ED: Well, actually,...

FRED: See part of the strategy to building a house quickly is choosing the right land to build on.

ED: Yes, I noticed that you're building your house in Thunder Acres.

FRED: You know, that's an odd name for a real estate development. But the land was real cheap.

ED: Yes, that was one of the things the townspeople mentioned. You're building your house on sand.

FRED: Easy as pie to level the ground when the soil is all sand.

ED: Yes, but...

FRED: See, you, on the other hand, chose to build up on the hill there.

ED: Yes.

FRED: Bad choice.

ED: How so?

FRED: Well, it's solid rock up there. You can't level your land at all. You have to do a whole lot more construction if you build on solid rock.

ED: Yes, I do, but...

FRED: I suppose you built up on the hill so you could have a nice view of the valley from your front window.

ED: Well, actually, no I didn't. I...

FRED: See, there's another mistake.

ED: A mistake?

FRED: Because the land is so cheap down here in the valley, I could buy three acres for the cost of just one acre up on the rocky old hill. To me, the view is just not worth the extra cost.

ED: But I didn't buy the lot for the view.

FRED: You didn't?

ED: No. I bought it for the foundation.

FRED: The foundation.

ED: Yes, building a house on solid rock means the house won't suffer any damage from wind or rain... or flood.

FRED: A lot you know. See, I figure that with all the lumber I used on the floors and the walls and the ceilings and the roof, my house will be too heavy to be blown around by the wind and the rain.

ED: But not the flood.

FRED: The flood. Now, that's the second time you said the word FLOOD.

ED: Yes, you see this area has really severe rain storms. If a house is not built on a foundation of rock, the wind and rain will virtually destroy it.

FRED: See, that's where you're wrong. When I build a house, it stays built.

ED: And how many houses have you built?

FRED: (*sheepishly*) Actually, this is the first house I've ever built.

ED: Obviously.

FRED: Obviously? What do you mean obviously?

ED: You asked me what the townspeople were saying about you?

FRED: Yes?

ED: They said that you were foolish.

FRED: Foolish?!

ED: Well, actually, some of them said you were stupid.

FRED: Stupid?!

ED: Yes. Anybody with any building experience at all knows that even the sturdiest house will fall apart sooner or later if it has a foundation on sand.

FRED: Well, I'm not going to live in my house forever, you know.

ED: Actually, you may not get a chance to live in your house at all.

FRED: What do you mean?

ED: There's a storm coming.
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

FRED: Yeah, so there's a storm coming, so what? My roof is completely finished. I'm just building on the inside of my house.

ED: I'm afraid your roof won't help you now.

FRED: What do you mean?

ED: Did you ever wonder where your real estate development got its name?

FRED: Thunder Acres? Yes, where did the name come from?

ED: Your house is not only built on sand, but it's built smack dab in the middle of a dry wash.

FRED: A dry wash? What's a dry wash?
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

ED: During the rain storms, Thunder Acres turns into the Thunder River.
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

FRED: (*looks toward his house behind him*) Oh, no. What's that shadow coming down the canyon there?
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

ED: That's not a shadow. That's a wall of water.
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

BOTH: Thunder River.

FRED: And it's headed right toward my brand new house.
(*cue: lightning and thunder*)

ED: (*exiting*) You'd better head for shelter.

FRED: Well, I'm not going into my house. It's built on sand. (*drops lumber on toe, hops off stage on one foot*) Ah! Hey, wait for me!

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