

W.A.L.L. - WAR ROOM FOLLOW-ALONG GUIDE

FIRST CHURCH WASHINGTON D.C.

Friday, June 19, 2026

7:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.

Facilitator: Ed Gray

When A Lie Leads

How the First Lie Created the First Wall

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 3:1–13

Genesis 4:1–8

Genesis 11:1–9

Ephesians 2:11–22

Matthew 22:36–40

TODAY'S BIG IDEA

Every wall begins with a story. Every story begins with an idea. Many of history's most destructive walls began with a lie.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“The serpent never mentioned a wall. He sold freedom. The wall was hidden inside the promise.”

THE PATTERN

The lie created fear. Fear created separation. Separation became the wall. The walls became the box. The box became the prison. The prison became a culture. The culture became a system.

THE FIRST LIE

The first attack in Scripture was not against behavior. The first attack was against trust. The first lie was not about fruit. The first lie was about the throne: Who belongs at the center?

THE FIRST FEAR

Genesis 3:10 reveals the first recorded emotional consequence of sin: fear. God had not changed. Adam's perception had changed.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"Fear is often born when perception becomes distorted."

THE FIRST WALL

The lie fractured relationship upward toward God, outward toward others, inward toward self, and downward toward creation. One wall may be a barrier. Four walls become a prison.

THE FIRST VIOLENCE

Before violence appeared in Cain's hands, a wall appeared in Cain's heart. The murder happened in a moment. The wall was built over time.

WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?

God did not ask Cain about success, achievement, or offerings. He asked, 'Where is your brother?' God continually redirects our attention toward relationship.

THE FIRST LABEL

Violence becomes easier when people stop being neighbors and start becoming labels. Before people are mistreated, they are often redefined. Before they are oppressed, they are categorized.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"The wall begins the moment we stop seeing image-bearers and start seeing labels."

THE FIRST SYSTEM

Babel reveals what happens when a lie becomes normal. The story becomes a culture. The culture becomes a system. The system becomes a prison.

JUNETEENTH REFLECTION

Before there were chains, there was a lie. Before there were plantations, there was a lie. Before there was segregation, there was a lie. Every system of oppression begins with a lie about who your neighbor is.

JESUS THE WALL BREAKER

Ephesians 2:14 declares that Christ broke down the middle wall of partition. Everything the lie built, Jesus came to dismantle. Everything the lie separated, Jesus came to restore.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“Ephesians 2 is Genesis 3 in reverse.”

GOD HAS NO NEIGHBORS

God is the center. We are the neighbors. The first lie attempted to move God from the center and place self on the throne.

THE KINGDOM RESTORES NEIGHBORS

When self occupies the center, people become competitors, threats, obstacles, labels, and categories. When God is restored to the center, neighbors begin to reappear.

THE GREAT REVELATION

The issue was never merely the wall. The issue was always the center.

FINAL REFLECTION

- What wall in my life may have begun with a lie?
- What fear has been shaping my perception?
- What relationship needs restoration?
- What would change if God were fully restored to the center?

CLOSING QUOTE

“Chains are visible. Lies are not. The chains were never the first prison. The first prison was the story people believed.”

KINGDOM A.I.M.

Awareness

Inspiration

Movement