

Vision'22

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Leader Guide

What We Value:
Uniquely Called
October 17, 2021

Main Passage: Ephesians 4:7-16

Theological Theme

Christ has graced us not only with salvation but also with a missional role in the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and the teachers.

- ❓ Think of your favorite sports team or musical act. Who is your favorite individual member on the team or in the group? What aspects of their talent stand out to you? How do their individual gifts contribute to the group as a whole?
- ❓ Do you believe every person has a unique talent, gift, or trait to offer? How does this apply to the church?

As a church, we value the idea that all believers are uniquely called to engage the whole person with the whole gospel of Jesus Christ anywhere, anytime, with anybody. In His wisdom and grace, God designed every person with unique gifts, abilities, passions, and talents so that we can each bring His good news to people in our lives who need to hear it. He designed the church to be made up of unique and diverse individuals who work together to make disciples who make disciples of Jesus.

1. The Distribution of Our Gifts (Ephesians 4:7-12)

Verse 9 explains that, before He ascended to heaven, Christ first descended from heaven to earth. In verse 8 (quoting from Psalm 68:18), Paul compared Christ to a victorious warrior who returns home from battle with enemy captives, distributing gifts from the spoils of war. When the Lord Jesus Christ returned to heaven victorious over sin and death, He gave spiritual gifts to His church in order to help it grow and impact the world.

2. The Purpose of Our Gifts (Ephesians 4:13-16)

Paul referred to spiritual maturity as a benefit and goal of unity in the church. In a healthy, unified body, individual believers grow from infancy to adulthood or from immaturity to maturity. The cure for immaturity is speaking the truth. Yet this truth is to be expressed in love—with compassion and understanding. Truth without love can be cold and harsh; love without truth can be mushy and weak. When members of a church intentionally embrace both truth and love, they will grow in Christ together.

3. The Diversity of Our Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Paul's words here were likely prompted by a question regarding which spiritual gift was most important. There's a reason God preserved these words for us. Spiritual arrogance can easily creep into the hearts of those who exercise spiritual gifts that naturally get more attention. Just consider the amount of attention a teacher gets compared with someone with the gift of service who sets up chairs week in and week out. Spiritual pride crept into the Corinthian church, and it can creep in to ours.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?