

6

Leader Guide

Going in Ministry

November 5, 2023

Main Passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

Theological Theme

God intends His church to reflect His nature as a diversity of people who function in unity as one for His glory and our joy. There are no spectators in the life of the church, only participants who use their gifts to build up the body of Christ.

Introduction

- ❓ Why do you think it is important to be willing to work to make the whole team better?
- ❓ Why is it unusual to celebrate the people behind the scenes who work in this way?

1. Walk Worthy (Ephesians 4:1-3)

In Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, he gave instructions that apply to the church today. After reminding them of all God had done for them, he strongly encouraged the people to consider what was required for following Jesus. Notice that his call to live worthy only came after explaining what God has first done for us (Ephesians 3:20-21). Those who follow Jesus are to take seriously the way they live and their impact on the world.

- ❓ Why is it important to be reminded us of what God has done for us before being challenged to live worthy lives? What difference does this make?
- ❓ What does it mean to live worthy of the calling of Christ? What does that look like?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to change to live a life worthy of the love you have received from God?

2. Be Unified (Ephesians 4:4-10)

From the days of Paul to today, people have needed to better understand why unity in the church matters and how we are to pursue it. Paul listed the things we are united in—we are one body, with one Spirit, one hope, one calling, one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and ultimately one God and Father over all. To overcome the things that separates us, it is important to begin with the things that unite us.

- ❓ How does focusing on the things that unite the church help us overcome our differences, which can be significant?
- ❓ Why is the grace Christians have received powerful to overcome any differences or divisions within the church?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to change so that your life reflects gratitude for the grace and gifts God has given you? If you aren't yet a follower of Jesus, God has still given you grace in many ways. What are some of these ways you recognize?

3. Lead & Equip (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Spiritual gifts are distributed by divine appointment and are not a product of human invention. This matters because it keeps us from believing we can manufacture the gifts we think we need or the ones that we desire. Gifts are not primarily for our benefit but to be used for the glory of God and the good of the body of Christ.

- ❓ How does it shape your perspective to recognize God given spiritual gifts come with a divine purpose? How does this change the way you might look to use your gifts?
- ❓ How does the idea of being mended back to wholeness apply to your life when you think about serving the Lord in the church?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to pursue Christian maturity? How can this group and our church as a whole support you in that?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. 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?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).