

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 27, 2018

MY STORY

1. What was your takeaway from last week's study?
2. In what ways did you find greater dependence on Christ this week?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NLT)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ²Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

4. What does Paul beg of his listeners, and what characteristics does he explain those to be?
5. What does Paul mean by "making allowances for each other's faults," and what would this look like in the real world?
6. What does it mean to "make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit"?

One of the requirements of being united in the Spirit is the concept of deference. This means to humbly yield to the needs of others. This really revolves around preferences. Let's be honest for a moment—many times people like things a certain way and have opinions about a large range of different subjects. For example, the color the walls should be in the church hallways, what type of music to play, how Life Groups should be led, icebreaker or no ice breaker, fun or serious, etc. This list could go on and on. The truth is, regarding issues like these, the Bible teaches us to be united in the Spirit and give deference when needed.

7. How could deference help us unite as one body?
8. Why is unity in the church so important?

TAKING IT HOME

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)

¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

9. What gifts did Christ give to the Church?
10. What is their role in the Church?
11. So, from the passage, whose job is it to do the work God has called us to, and how is that different from what many people think about the Church?
12. Both Pastor Craig and Pastor Tim unpacked the idea of us being the net God uses to cast out into the world. What does that mean to you?
13. How can your net reach farther than a net thrown by the pastors?
14. What kind of an impact can the Church have if we all throw our nets?
15. Both Pastors also talked about mending the nets within the context of you and I being the net. How do we practically go about mending our nets?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Ephesians Chapter 4:1-13 and think about the following questions.

16. In what areas does God want me to lean into deference?
17. Where does my net reach, and where does God want to use me to reflect Him to others?
18. Who do I need to pray for this week?

FAMILY RESOURCES

This week talk with your kids about the lesson we learned about being the nets. Read Matthew Chapter 4:18-22 and answer the following questions.

19. When Jesus called His disciples, what were they doing?
20. What did Jesus promise to make them?
21. How can Jesus make us fishers of men as well?

Finish your time together in prayer, asking God to make us fishers of men.

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. Ephesians 4:1-3 (MSG)

You were chosen to **MOVE**.

Verse1b:

"The road God has chosen you to travel" (MSG)

"Live a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God"! (NLT)

You are chosen to MOVE right **WHERE YOU ARE**.

- You have been chosen to MOVE in your _____.

Million Dollar Response

Verse1b "...to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

- They devoted themselves to the **teaching** – learning and growing.
- They devoted themselves to **fellowship** – united together.
- They devoted themselves to their **calling**.
- Result – Jesus is made **known**.

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11

You are chosen to be **EQUIPPED**.

Challenge:

1. Changing your thinking –
Am I devoting myself to the mending (equipping)?
2. Change your doing –
Where is God calling me to MOVE where only I can?

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

YOU
ARE

CHOSEN