



Group Leader Guide
ONE Celebration Sunday
Scripture: Ephesians 4: 1-16

Leader Notes:

Leaders, today marks the official end of our ONE initiative. Take some time in your group to consider together how God has blessed our church over the past few years!

Bottom Line:

When the church is unified, the mission is maximized. – God can use the church that walks in unity to do great works in the world.

Introduction:

“When the church is unified, the mission is maximized.” – We said these words as a church over two years ago, believing that our next step as a faith family was to come together in unity around Christ and his mission. We believed that if we walked in step with the Spirit and one another that God would do amazing things. Two years later we can say with confidence, GOD HAS DONE AMAZING THINGS.

Ephesians 4:1-16 was the foundational passage of the one initiative. At the start of our two year initiative we focused on verses 1-6 which issue a call for Christians to walk in unity with one

another because of the centrality of the gospel. In other words, Paul says that we should walk in love because that which unites us (Christ) is greater than that which divides us (anything else).

This past Sunday we looked more closely at v. 7-16 which shows what happens when Christians and the church walk in unity. Paul shows us that when the church walks in unity the people use their spiritual giftedness to build each other up into the image of Jesus Christ and fill the earth with Christ's glory.

Truly, when the church is unified, the mission is maximized.

BELONG – Begin by allowing the group a time to connect and care for one another! Take prayer requests and start the group in prayer.

Ice Breaker Questions:

- God has done great things at our church over the past two years! What is your personal favorite thing about our church? Or, in what ways have you seen God moving in our church?

BELIEVE – Take time to study the Bible together.

READ EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Teaching Points:

- When Paul turns to the activity of the Christian life the first place he turns is to the Christian's behavior with other Christians. – The point: Christians are meant to walk in community.
- Christians are called to walk in unity with other Christians, even when it is difficult.
- Every Christian is given a spiritual gift for the sake of the mission.
- Every Christian is called to grow into the image of Christ.

Questions For Discussion

- Verses 4-16 focus on unity. What do we learn about unity from these verses? How does the Gospel bring diverse people together in unity, and what does this look like?
- What are the gifts given to the church? How do they help the church become spiritually mature?
- What is the “work of the ministry” Paul writes about and what are its implications for you?
- In verses 1-3, Paul urges the Ephesians, and us, to “Live a life worthy of the calling you received.” What were the four aspects Paul gives of this “Walk worthy in community” life? What does it mean to walk worthy of your calling?
- What does this walk look like for you personally? What do you need to do to both keep pushing yourself in Christ and resting in Christ?
- What is your greatest area of weakness when it comes to living like the person you have become? What do you think you can do to address that issue?¹

BECOME – Make application and determine to follow Christ better.

Close the group by praying for God to help us be a people who walk in unity so that the mission can move forward!

¹ River Community Church Original Discussion Questions.