

EPHESIANS: Week 8 – Your Role on the Team

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

At the end of Ephesians 3, Paul prayed for believers to be grounded in God's love and to have inner strength from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4 is a challenge. The Holy Spirit is using Paul to challenge believers to keep the unity of the body of Christ through the Spirit and to walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Paul states that there is "only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism in which we have been unified."

Tell the story – Ephesians 4:1-6 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God is the Father of all; God desires for us to live in unity with each other (John 17:21); God challenges us to walk in a way that brings glory to Himself; God calls us to follow His perfect example of humility and patience (II Peter 3:9); God calls us to bear each other's burdens (Gal 6:2); God calls us to meet the needs of each other (Titus 3:14); God's love is the fuel that compels us to good works (II Cor. 5:14-15); God is Lord of all (Jer. 32:27); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[As a believer, I am a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19); I am God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works; In Christ, I am no longer a prisoner to sin but now a prisoner for serving the Lord (Gal 5:1); I struggle with showing patience towards others; I can look for my significance in my accomplishments; God has made us individual members of His body (I Cor. 12:12-14); I must continually surrender to the Lordship of Christ (Gal 2:20); etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. God challenges us to bear with one another in love. How can we help bear each other's burdens? How have you lived out this challenge recently?
2. In what areas of your life are you most likely to struggle with humility?

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 4:7-16 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 8 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

It is imperative to read the story from the Bible during group time. We always want to open the Bible and read the story word for word. This establishes the authority of the story as part of God's word to us. It also ensures that the story is communicated accurately and completely.

When reading from the Bible, you can ask one person to read the whole passage. This works well for shorter stories. For longer stories, and to involve more Grow Group members, you may want to have individuals take turns reading. Ask each person to read one verse, or several verses, and then move to the next person. Keep track of where you are in the story in case someone needs a prompt.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Make plans as a group to spend the day serving together. You may know of someone who needs help with yard work or household repairs. You may want to contact a local mission to see how you can help them. One of your group members may even have a need. Find a need and plan to serve together to meet the need. If someone in your group has a heart for serving, you can ask them to help plan the day of service for the group.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

1 Corinthians 13 continues, "Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged." Phil Ryken, author of Loving the Way Jesus Loves, notes that irritability is a natural reaction to annoyances that we should take more seriously because Paul tells us that love is NOT irritable. Ryken asks, "When was the last time you asked the Lord to help you respond graciously to that special person who always annoys you?"

When we love like Jesus does, we cannot hang on to a list of grievances that have been committed against us. Once forgiveness has been established and the relationship restored, the wrongdoing must be forgotten. Nothing will build more walls in a relationship than a laundry list of past failings. God does not continue to bring up our past. In fact, Psalm 103:12 says, "He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west." Next time you are tempted to dredge up a wrongdoing from the past and use it against someone, remember how completely God has forgiven you and give thanks that your past does not define you in God's eyes.