

EPHESIANS: Week 9 – Getting Better

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.]*

What Paul is sharing in this passage is more than a challenge, its a further understanding to all believers concerning their call to ministry. Paul desires for believers to understand that the higher calling is not for an individual, but for the body as a whole, for the edification of all. While Christ has given some believers a specific purpose of equipping disciples for the work of ministry, each disciple plays an important role and has been uniquely equipped.

Tell the story – Ephesians 4:7-16 *[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 has equipped each believer uniquely with specific spiritual gifts; God wants us to use our gifts to equip each other as disciples of Jesus so that the church would be strengthened and expanded; God wants each of us to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus; God has given us the truth of Scripture for the purpose of spiritual maturity; God brings about spiritual transformation in our lives (I Cor. 3:6); the unity of believers is of great importance to God; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[The foundational truths of the faith unify us as believers; I can become complacent in my walk with the Lord and not be willing to take strategic steps that will help me grow in my faith; I can become intimidated by the gifts of others and refuse to use my spiritual gifts; I can use my spiritual gift for my glory and not the Lord's glory; I can become susceptible to following false doctrine; I must speak the truth of God to others in love and not in anger; 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. In verse 12, we learn that God empowers leaders to equip other believers to do the works of service. Are you equipped for ministry? If so, what are you doing?
2. Share a time in your journey when you were "carried about by every wind of doctrine"?

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 4:17-31 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 9 – 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]*

Why should my Grow Group offer food? There are 3 main reasons that we encourage our Grow Groups to provide food during their Grow Group time.

- Social: Food is an equalizer. It makes people feel comfortable and it helps with open fellowship. When you have a designated time for food and light conversation, it helps you transition into your time of study in God's Word. This allows your Grow Group time to be more intentional and not about the weeks happenings.
- Hospitable: We have often talked about the importance of hospitality and being a welcoming group. Having food for your guests says that you prepared ahead of time and were looking forward to their attendance.
- Growth: Two of the things that help people grow the most are ownership and service. Providing food gives you an easy opportunity to allow someone to serve. When people bring food to your Grow Group, they also feel a sense of ownership in that Grow Group.

Of course, this isn't something that works for every Grow Group. If it isn't something you are doing, we encourage you to try it. If it is something you are doing, we hope this helps you see even more value in what you are doing.

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

- Check on each Grow Group member this week. Encourage them to think of ways that they can go even deeper in their walk with the Lord. Ask for ways you can pray for their spiritual walk.
- Make a habit of sharing scriptures with them, through text, email or handwritten notes. This will encourage them to lean on the Word of God and begin to apply it to their daily lives.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Is there a particular scripture that has been meaningful in your life when you face difficulties? Have you memorized that Scripture so that you can repeat it to yourself and to others during difficult times? If yes, then consider sharing that verse with your Grow Group sometime. If no, spend some time this week searching God's Word for a verse to claim that will calm your heart and reassure your mind when life gets rough.