

EPHESIANS: Week 5 – The Church Body

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.]*

In the first part of chapter 12, Paul explained that there are a wide variety of spiritual gifts. Paul's audience was focusing on a few of the more spectacular or showy gifts, and they were looking down on believers who did not have them. In the last section of this chapter, Paul is going to illustrate the importance of the unity of the members of the church by giving an analogy comparing a healthy church to a properly functioning human body.

Tell the story – I Corinthians 12:12-31 *[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 expects every part of the church body to grow and do its part; God says that there are no inferior parts in the body of Christ; God desires for His church to be healthy and unified; God created each of us as His workmanship to do good works that He has laid out in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10); God places the members of the church body together as He desires it (v 18); God calls for us to care for one another (v 25); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I can have feelings of inferiority and fail to use my gifts for the glory of God; I can struggle with feelings of superiority, thinking that no one else can contribute as much to the kingdom as I can; I can perform good works but often with the impure motives of being noticed and praised; I must be unified with my brothers and sisters in Christ for the church to function properly; I need to encourage others and build them up; 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 using our spiritual gifts for God's glory, we can waiver between feelings of superiority and inferiority. In which area do you tend to struggle most? Explain.
2. Who was the first person that got you involved in using your gifts for God's glory?

Assign next week's passage – Ephesians 3:1-13 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

EPHESIANS: Week 5 – 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]*

The background of the story is used to add context for the lesson, and is to be shared in a relational way. The background sets the scene for the person telling the story, and gives the group a way to know what is happening. Having the background available also enables us to put the “big picture” together in our minds as we see the stories fit together as a whole.

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

A spiritual parent is someone who is intentional about living out the mission of making disciples who can make disciples. Spiritual parents reproduce disciples, are able to feed themselves and others from God’s Word, and value the church team in accomplishing the mission. You may see this in their actions and hear it in their conversation.

To shepherd someone who is a spiritual parent, you will begin by explaining the discipleship process (teach them the discipleship wheel). As they begin discipling others, you will coach them by helping them plan meetings, facilitate your Grow Group, and assessing where people are in their spiritual growth. Be certain to maintain relationships with those you have released to disciple on their own so that you can provide encouragement and accountability.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Have you ever felt trapped? Perhaps small spaces, large crowds, or certain environments give you anxiety. Maybe you have felt trapped, not by physical constraints, but by stress. You may feel trapped in a job, growing responsibilities, debt, or major issues that seem insurmountable. At some point, all of us have felt trapped.

In Galatians 5, Paul declares that Christ has set us free from the bondage that’s holding us down. Greater than any physical or emotional constraint, Paul sees the sin nature as a force that keeps us from living freely for God. This sin causes us to do those things that we don’t want to do, think the things that we don’t want to think and feel things other than what God wants us to feel. Ultimately, sin, working through the experiences of life, makes us feel trapped by corrupting the full experience of God’s love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness.

Rejoice today that sin no longer has control over those of us who have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Ask God to help you overcome any area that you are struggling to surrender completely to Him.