

Leader Resources for Small Groups | June 2, 2019

Anyone leading the group this week may find additional Small Group Leader Resources at <http://www.wcchapel.org/resources-for-small-group-leaders/>

Explore the Holy Spirit — The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

Focus Passage: Ephesians 4:1–16

Context: Ephesians 4:1–24

Other Passages Referenced: Ephesians 2 & 5

Sermon Recap: In Ephesians 4:1-16, we see that the hard work of unity produces maturity. The hard work of unity requires us to be in community, to serve in community, and to speak the truth in love. Growing up is not the same as growing old. In fact we can grow old without growing up into maturity. The immature Christian is unsteady, lacks discernment, and is self-centered.

Introductory Comments to Leaders

- As you lead the discussion in the group this week, try to move quickly through the *Look* section to spend as much time as you can in the *Took/Application* section. Make sure to note in *Look* Question 2 that the work of the ministry belongs more to the saints/church members than it does to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds/pastors, and teachers. Their role is to equip the saints for the work of ministry.
- Try to help your group clarify the difference between being “taught” and being “equipped” for service.
- Make sure to spend some time on application questions 3 and 4. If some of your members transparently share areas of immaturity or that they have been taught but never equipped, offer to meet with them to discuss some steps of how they might grow up rather than simply grow old. If you would like some ideas or coaching on this, please call me (Dale) at 202-870-4606. I’ll be delighted to help you help them.

Hook: *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

When did you first realize that you felt like an adult? ... Was there a particular experience that you look back to that led you to see yourself as an adult?

What was the grossest thing you’ve ever seen a toddler put in their mouth.

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ: Ephesians 4:1–16

1. What did the Apostle Paul state in Ephesians 4:12–13 as God’s reasons for giving apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds/pastors, and teachers to the church?
2. Which group is mentioned as being responsible for the work of ministry?
3. What is the standard Paul uses for measuring maturity?

4. What is required for the body to be built up to maturity? (Refer to the sermon recap above and note where those points derived from in the passage.)
5. How does Paul describe immaturity in Ephesians 4:14? (Refer to the sermon recap above and note where those points derived from in the passage.)

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. There is a distinction between “teaching” and “equipping.” In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus said, “Go and make disciples ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Obviously we need to know the teachings of Jesus before we can observe them, but Jesus said being a disciple is about being equipped to observe/obey His commands. Which of the following most speaks to your experience:
 - a. The Church teaches me about being a disciple of Jesus
 - b. The Church equips me to be a disciple of Jesus.
2. The sermon pointed out that the word translated “children” in Ephesians 4:14 can more literally mean “toddler.” Which of these attributes of immature spiritual toddlers do you most need to grow up in?
 - a. My faith is up and down with my circumstances and emotions
 - b. I’m not sure I can discern the difference between false teaching and biblical teaching
 - c. I still look to God and others for what they can do for me more than for how I can serve them.
 - d. I feel easily slighted or get my feelings easily hurt
 - e. I have a hard time admitting when I am wrong and asking for forgiveness
 - f. I have trouble forgiving others
 - g. I don’t take criticism well
3. Are you growing up as a disciple of Jesus or simply growing older? ... Are you more humble, joyful, self-controlled, and generous, with more inner peace than you were last year at this time?
4. Will you ask the previous question (3) to someone who knows you well enough to give a reliable answer?

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.

What we hope members glean from the passage:

1. To perfect/equip/train the saints for service/the work of ministry ... to build up the body ... promote unity in faith and knowledge of Jesus as the Son of God.
2. The “saints” are the group Paul notes as responsible for doing the work of ministry.
3. Paul measures maturity in accordance the fullness of Christ.
4. Be in community (12, 13) ... serving/working to guard unity within the community by doing our individual parts to build others up (12,16) ... to speak the truth in love (15).
5. Unsteady (14) ... lacks discernment (14)... is self-centered (14)