

### Discussion Guide

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

#### Open

This week, Pastor Don's message focuses on the need we have to live in a connected community of relationships with the people around us. The truth is, however, that a healthy network of connected relationships is not just something we find - it's something that we have to take personal responsibility for helping *build*. To get your group started, let everyone tell about the greatest team of which they've ever been a part - whether it was an athletic team, a group at work or school, or something else. What made it so special?

#### BIG THOUGHT

God gives each of us different abilities to use for the good of each other so that we can become mature and strong as we grow together in Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-2, one of our passages for this week's sermon. When Paul wrote this letter to the Jesus followers in the city of Ephesus, he was sitting in a jail in Rome waiting for his trial to begin. How does that give more weight to his instructions? (v. 1) Of the qualities he lists in v. 2, which is easier for you to demonstrate as you go through your day? Which is the most difficult? Share any examples if you can...
2. Now read v. 3-5. How does Paul show in v. 3 that he knows our human nature - what realistic goal does he give? Through what power are we able to keep unity in the way that he encourages us? And what is the foundational basis for the way we relate to each other? (v. 4-5)

3. Read v. 7-13. Who gave us the different abilities we possess? (v. 7) List the specific roles that Paul highlights in v. 11 - what is the reason God gives these gifts? (v. 12-13) Have you benefitted in your own life from someone providing leadership to you who was gifted in any of these areas? Tell your group the circumstances.
4. Read v. 14. The idea here is that instead of us being thrown around by all the confusion around us, when we live in mature unity with other believers we will be able to stand steady. Share an example of a time when you were supported by a community of friends in the midst of chaos - how did they help you?
5. Now read v. 15-16. Why do we need to relate to each other with both truth *and* love? (v. 15) What happens when either one is missing? And what is the goal our community should be moving us toward? Who ultimately creates and maintains our community? (v. 16)

#### Take it Further

Take time to thank God for the people He's used to support and grow you in your walk with Jesus, and then ask Him to help you use the abilities He's given you to do the same for the people around *you* right now!

#### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: 1 Peter 3:8

Day 4: Colossians 3:14

Day 2: Romans 12:16

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Day 3: John 13:35

Day 6: 1 Corinthians 1:10

Memory Verses: Ephesians 4:16



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