

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 4:1-6

3-Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The Motivation for Unity**
- **The Characteristics of Unity**
- **The Foundation Supporting Unity**

I. The Motivation for Unity

- What is the word “therefore” referring to? Why is this important?
- Do you agree or disagree with the following quote? Explain.
 - Right doctrine is essential to right living. It is impossible to live a faithful Christian life without knowing biblical doctrine. Doctrine simply means teaching, and there is no way that even the sincerest believer can live a life pleasing to God without knowing what God Himself is like and knowing the sort of life God wants him to live. Those who set biblical theology aside also set aside sound Christian living. – John MacArthur
- Why do you think some people within the church place sound doctrine and love against each other? How is this a false dichotomy?
- Paul urges the saints to walk “worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” How would you summarize this calling?
- What does Paul mean by saying, “walk worthy of the calling?”
 - **Leaders Cheat:** The Greek word translated “worthy” is *axios*, which has the root idea of weight. This is the word from which we derive our English word

axiom, which means, “to be of equal weight.” In an equation the axiom indicates doing something to each side of the equation, so it remains true.

II. The Characteristics of Unity

- On the basis of Ephesians 4:1-6, what would walking unworthily of their calling have looked like among the Ephesian believers?
- Why is disunity unworthy of our calling?
- Read the following 2 verses and as a group come up with a biblical definition of humility.
 - 1 Peter 5:5
 - Philippians 2:3-4
- How does humility aid unity and pride destroy unity?
- How does gentleness aid unity?
- How is Jesus a great example of gentleness and/or meekness?
- How do patience and bearing with one another aid unity?
- How is God patient with us? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Exodus 34:6
 - 2 Peter 3:9
 - Romans 2:4
- Do you struggle being gentle & patient with your brothers & sisters within the church? If so, why?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
- Is it significant that Paul starts with patience as a characteristic of love?
- What does it mean that love, “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things?” How do these things help promote unity within the church?
- Do you naturally believe the best of people? What are ways that help us believe the best in people?
- Do you see a lack of “bearing all things” in the church today? Explain your answer.

- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - Paul emphasizes the need to walk with humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, love, and peace. Each of these attributes is essential to maintaining unity in the church. Humility is needed because pride insists on getting its own way. Gentleness is needed because anger offends and harms others. Patience is needed because we cannot control the actions of others, including God. Tolerance is needed because everyone has weaknesses. Love is needed because it is the oil that lubricates all the other virtues. And peace is needed because unity cannot truly exist without God's people being united by the peace that surpasses all understanding. – Benjamin Merkle

- **Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12**

- What does it mean that love covers a multitude of sins?

- How do you know when you should confront someone because of a sin or cover it up in love?

- How is 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12 the opposite of gossip?

- **Read Romans 1:28-29**

- Why do you think Paul lists gossip with the other sins on this list? Why is gossip such a big deal?

- When are you tempted to gossip the most? How can we keep each other accountable when it comes to gossiping?

III. The Foundation Supporting Unity

- Why do you think unity is so important?

- How does unity reflect the Trinity?