

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 4:7-11

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Christ’s Gifts Given to Individuals**
- **Christ’s Gifts Given by His Victory**

I. Christ’s Gifts Given to Individuals

- What’s the connection in this passage between unity and a diversity of gifts?
 - **Leaders cheat:** focus on verses 4-7
- Does every Christian have a spiritual gift? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Eph. 4:7
 - 1 Peter 4:10
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7
- According to these 3 verses, what is the purpose of our spiritual gift?
- What responsibilities do you have as a member of a local church? Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 to help answer this question and pay attention to the word “stewards.”
- Why is it so important to be who God has called you to be rather than trying to imitate the gifts of others?

- Have you ever seen a church attach inferiority or superiority to people with particular spiritual gifts? How can we prevent this from happening?
- Read Eph. 4:7 and discuss the importance of the word “measure.” Why should we remember God’s sovereignty over the gifts? How is the word “measure” both humbling and empowering?
- **Read Romans 12:4-18** and answer the following questions.
- What main ideas do you see in the Romans passage that echo Paul’s challenge to the church at Ephesus?
- How can the existence of different spiritual gifts help bring about unity and growth in the body of Christ? How do differing gifts sometimes spark controversy?
- What will mature Christian love look like in the body of Christ? Conversely, what would be signs of a church’s lack of maturity?
- Do Paul’s exhortations encourage you or discourage you? How does God expect us to carry out all the difficult commands of Christ?
- Think about your relationships in the body of Christ at your church. What, if anything, keeps you from unity and fellowship? What would it look like for you to “walk worthy of your calling” in these relationships?
- Do you know what your spiritual giftings are? If not, what steps can you take this week or in the near future to discover them? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
 - Gifts are not granted for our own spiritual growth but for the growth of others, for the strengthening of fellow believers. Some of the spiritual gift inventories give the impressions that you can discover your spiritual gift in the privacy of your room, apart from the vital involvement in the body of the Christ... If you are involved in the church, if you are serving other believers, you are exercising your gifts even if you don’t know what they are, and that is the most important thing of all. – **Thomas Schreiner**

II. Christ’s Gifts Given by His Victory

- Explain the relationship between the ascension of Jesus and the distribution of gifts to the church.

- **Read and discuss** the following quote
 - Not to use our gift is an affront to God’s wisdom, a rebuff of His love and grace, and a loss to His Church. We did not determine our gift, deserve it, or earn it. But we all have a gift from the Lord, and if we do not use it, His work is weakened, and His heart is grieved. – **John MacArthur**
- The German poet Heinrich Heine once said to some Christians: “You show me your redeemed life and I might be inclined to believe in your Redeemer.” How do you respond to this statement? How does it challenge you?

Prayer –

- Spend some time as a group praying for our nation, state, and community concerning the coronavirus. This virus is providing an important opportunity for us to reflect on our true hope, which is forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Christ. God is all-powerful, all-loving, and wise. He is sovereign even over sickness, disease, and viruses. Before praying about the coronavirus, take a few moments as a group and meditate on the following promises from scripture.
 - **Matthew 6:27** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?
 - **John 16:32-33** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
 - **2 Timothy 1:7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
 - **1 Peter 5:6-7** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
 - **Hebrews 13:6** So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
 - **Revelation 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”