

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Ephesians 4:11-16

LEADER'S STUDY

Ministry TOGETHER:

When we come to faith in Jesus, we are changed from being dead in our sin and alone to carry the weight of it, to being brought to new, eternal life in Him and we are rescued from the punishment for our sin and the separation from God that came with it. We are actually rescued and reconciled for relationship with God. We are no longer alone. Not only does the Spirit of God now live inside us but we have become part of God's family, His church or His body. This new life that God has given us is one of community and unity. God has created us and gifted us in ways that are meant to build each other up. This passage equates spiritual maturity with unity and knowledge of Jesus. That TOGETHER, we would know Him and be transformed. God puts great emphasis on the togetherness of His people. It is through each other that we are built up. God is using each of our lives to reveal the gospel to each other and to the world. Keep that plural nature of scripture in mind as you read this passage.

As you prepare for this week ask yourself questions like this. What does it mean to be part of God's family? How has God gifted me? How has he gifted the people around me? What is spiritual maturity and what is the purpose of it? What role does love play in using the Gifts God has given me? Do you see yourself as a gift God has given His family? What is your role in the family and how is God leading you to minister to others in love? Take time to pray. Ask God to open your eyes to how He has gifted you and those around you as part of His body. How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Colossians 4, Luke 10, Acts 8:29, 1 Col 1:28-29
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: Since this is your first meeting of the semester, plan on some time at the beginning for people to get to know each other. Consider playing an icebreaker game so everyone feels comfortable talking together.

This is a great time to build vision for your group. Talk about what the goals and outcomes of this group could be. Help people know what to expect and get excited about what God does when we seek Him in His word together.

Review the group guidelines together and let people know what the schedule will be and then stick to it. It's OK to allow for some social time before and after your group but make sure people know when you are starting and ending your study and prayer time together. Part of hospitality is being sensitive to everyone's time.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Ephesians 4:11-16

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?