



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK FOUR: “SERVICE IS NORMAL” | EPHESIANS 4:11-16

SERIES OVERVIEW

Christians sometimes give an impression that they are not to be bothered, even amongst fellow Christians, by things that seem to mess up their put together worlds. However, God’s people have been changed by his Spirit and what was once abnormal—loving sacrificially—is now normal. It is a love that acts, sacrifices and desires the highest good for others. It is the mark of which Jesus said others would know we are his followers. This love is the authenticating mark of a Christian. This love is normal.

THIS WEEK

Are you starting to see a pattern here? The past two weeks, Paul has written in the books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, and now Ephesians about unity in the Church and each person having a God-given uniqueness and gifting to work with the body to proclaim Jesus and build up of the saints into mature followers of Christ. This week, we will discuss that being alone and self-sufficient isn’t God’s design. In the Church, service is normal.

ICE BREAKER

Think back to your time on a team, in a band, in an orchestra or any group that needed to work together: Describe what it was like when everyone did what they were supposed to do. Also, describe what it was like when one person tried to do it all (e.g. “Ball Hog” in basketball).

READ

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In chapters one and two of Ephesians, Paul gives thanks and praise for the redemptive work of the Gospel of Christ for himself and the church at Ephesus. He then gives his credentials in chapter three and his love for the Gentiles to whom he writes. It may seem to an outsider that Paul is taking an entire section of the letter to talk about himself in vanity, but Paul does this SO THAT he can urge his beloved brothers and sisters at Ephesus with his beginning point in chapter four: Unity and love within the church, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, result in serving one another. We use the gifts and offices of the Church to serve the body and world, so that they may see Christ glorified within us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders, encourage your group members to spend time considering and answering the following questions before coming to the group, as this will produce a more lively discussion time.)

- 1. Read vv. 11-13 again. Why does God give to some the offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher?**
- 2. In the Church, there has been the bad habit of separating “clergy” and “laity.” How does vv. 11-12 change that view?**
- 3. Read vv. 14-16 again. What happens when the body is serving one another?**
- 4. How is being involved, serving and using your gifts, kept you growing in your walk with Christ?**
- 5. Think about others in the group right now. How have you seen the group grow as a result of different people serving?**

APPLICATION

- **Pray:** For personal opportunities to serve the body of Christ
- **Pray:** For God to bring people into your group that may have spiritual gifts that all of you may lack.
- **Serve Together on a Sunday Morning:** At The Chapel, we have groups that serve in the parking lot together, greet at the doors, serve in Ignite, serve in Treasure Kingdom, play in the worship band, etc. Think about ways your group could serve our entire church body together at our biggest gatherings.