

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 20-26, 2023

## “THE PRIORITY OF UNITY”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What weird, unique or funny talent does one of your closest friends have?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Read Ephesians 4:1-3.

1. What do you think is Paul referring to when he talks about “calling” (verse 1)? What then does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling”? In what way should this calling affect your daily choices and actions as a follower of Jesus?
2. Ephesians 4:2 emphasizes the virtues of humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance. Which of these qualities strike you as something you need the Holy Spirit to work on in *your* life?
3. How do these virtues foster unity within the body of Christ? Share examples of situations where these virtues can be challenging to practice but are crucial for maintaining unity.
4. Ephesians 4:3 suggests actively working to preserve unity. What kind of commitment and intentionality does this require in our relationships with other believers? What are some common factors or challenges that can threaten the unity of a Christian community?
5. Read Matthew 18:15-17. As a group, summarize the steps that Jesus instructs to believers when there is conflict. Reflect on the idea of addressing personal issues directly with the person involved. Why is this step crucial for maintaining healthy relationships within the Christian community?
6. How do you celebrate and appreciate the diversity within the church? In what ways can you foster an environment that embraces people of different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences? Are there preconceptions or prejudices that need to be addressed in order to promote unity in diversity?

### NEXT STEPS

*“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1)*

- ☐ I will make intentional efforts to build and maintain harmonious relationships with fellow believers.
- ☐ By the grace of God, I will cultivate the virtues of humility, gentleness, patience and forbearance.
- ☐ I will be intentional to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the church.
  
- ☐ *Don't forget to:*
- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for godly perspective on church unity that you will personally apply in your life.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

November 20	Ephesians 4:1-6
November 21	Hebrews 12:14-15
November 22	1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
November 23	Ephesians 4:7-16
November 24	Ephesians 4:17-32
November 25	Psalms 133
November 26	Psalms 69:29-36