



INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Summer Vacations: Share where God took you this Summer!

SCRIPTURE READING:

Ephesians 4:1-16

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

**A DIVERSE YET UNIFIED
BODY UNDER ONE GOD
WITH ONE PURPOSE.**

LIFEGROUP CURRICULUM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the setting for this passage in the book of Ephesians? Where is Paul (vs. 1)?
2. In verse 1 the word “therefore” is used and we should always use this as an indicator to look back to what was before. Paul is making a statement in chapters 1-3 and then gives a response to that truth in chapter 4. What is Paul’s purpose in writing this letter/what should we have in mind as we read chapter 4?
3. Paul uses the word one (έν, [en]) seven times to describe how this body, the church, is supposed to relate to one another. What are the things he notes as significantly unifying for the diverse church?
4. Paul is teaching that the diverse, yet unified church is purposed with continuing the work of Jesus Christ and that each of us is given grace, and gifting, “according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” What does that mean?
5. What is the church? How would you describe it? What is its purpose (according to Paul)?

MEMORY VERSE:

RATHER, *speaking the truth in love*, WE ARE TO GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST, FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER BY EVERY JOINT WITH WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED, WHEN EACH PART IS WORKING PROPERLY, MAKES THE BODY GROW SO THAT IT BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE.

Ephesians 4:15-16

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it look like to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?” (v. 1-2). Bonus- What calling have we been called to?
2. What does it mean that we would “all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood (can be translated genderless), to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ?”
3. Why is spiritual/biblical/emotional maturity important for the follower of Jesus?
4. If Jesus is the source and the sustainer of the church, His body, what does that mean for how we are to interact with one another while on His mission-seeking to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to bear on earth?
5. How are you connected to the body of Christ at Adventure? How has the Lord blessed you to be able to serve alongside your brothers and sisters here at Adventure?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

“Connection Sunday highlights all the parts of this body and invites us all to participate in and celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do with one another in and through Adventure of Faith Church.”

-PASTOR CJ