

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### Growing Up in Christ Jesus

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

#### OVERVIEW

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

#### APPLY // EPHESIANS 3:14-19

1. Read Ephesians 3:14-19.
2. Paul is praying that the Ephesians (and us) would experience what is already ours in Christ. Why is it important to remember there’s often a “gap” between what is true about us and what we experience?
3. How does it encourage you to know that Jesus dwells in us by the power of the Spirit? How might you use this truth to disciple a fellow brother or sister who is struggling with shame? How might you use this truth to share the beauty of the gospel with an unbeliever?
4. What are some ways we can determine if we are rooted in ground in love as opposed to only being rooted and grounded in truth?
5. Why do we need all the saints to comprehend the fullness of God’s love? What does this tell us about the importance of a diverse community?
6. Share specific ways fellow members in your CG have helped you grow in and experience the love of Christ.

#### STUDY // EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 1-3.
2. Read Ephesians 4:1. How does all that Paul wrote in chapters 1-3 inform his call in 4:1?

3. Notice that Paul uses the term “walk” in 4:1. Where have we seen this term before? What does it mean?
  4. What does it mean to walk “in a manner worthy” of our calling? Is Paul saying we have to work for the gospel?
  5. Discuss the various ways Paul calls us to live (e.g. humility, gentle, etc.). How does the gospel (chapters 1-3) inform and fuel these traits?
  6. Paul says that we are to be “eager” to maintain the unity of the Spirit. What does it mean to be “eager” to do something? Why is Paul so concerned about unity in the Spirit?
  7. What repetition do you see in verses 4-6? What’s Paul emphasizing? Why?
  8. How does verse 7 transition from unity to diversity?
  9. According to verses 7-10, who gives gifts?
  10. According to verses 11-16, why does he give these gifts?
  11. What are the goals of equipping the saints? Discuss why Paul desires the Ephesian Christians to grow in “unity of faith,” “knowledge of the Son of God,” and “to mature manhood.”
  12. According to verse 14, what is a concern of Paul? What might this look like today?
  13. How does maturing in Christ protect you from the enemy’s schemes?
  14. What does it mean to “speak the truth in love”?
  15. Re-read 4:11-16. Note all the corporate references (e.g. “we”). How does this inform Paul’s instructions?
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Continue sharing how your CG members have helped you know the surpassing love of Jesus.