

WALK: Taking Steps Toward Maturity in Christ

“Walk in Unity” (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Community Group Curriculum for the week of April 12, 2015

Big Picture

Ephesians 4 emphasizes how unity as a church is critical. In many ways church is a team sport. How we play greatly impacts our success on the field of play. Some of us are out of shape spiritually. Others are on the sidelines watching the professionals play the game. And others are dialed in and greatly helping the team's chances for victory. So which one are you? Hurting the team? Watching the team? Or helping the team? We all need to play as a team in order to accomplish all that God has planned for us.

Let's Dig In!

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Choose one verse or phrase from this passage that stands out to you. Discuss in your group.
2. In Ephesians 4:1-2, Paul begins to describe how we should live in light of our calling. The first quality Paul highlights is meekness or humility. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus describes Himself as meek or “humble.” How was Jesus' life an example of meekness and humility – that is, power under control, used to serve rather than to dominate?
3. How do humility and patience work together? What roles do these and other character traits in Ephesians 4:1-3 play in building unity?
4. We are commanded to keep the unity of the Spirit. But Paul also says we already have one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:4-6). How do these seven “ones” contribute to actually living out true unity?
5. Respond to the statement: “Gifts are not toys to play with.” How do all the gifts in Ephesians 4:11-12 work together to create unity? In what ways do people use their gifts wrongly to create division?

6. Compare the gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11-12 with those described in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Who are some people you know with the various gifts? How do you see them in evidence at RCC or in your community group?

7. What spiritual gifts do you believe you have? How do they fulfill the purposes described in Ephesians 4:11-13?

8. How does spiritual infancy differ from spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:14-16)? Are you helping someone grow towards spiritual maturity?

9. In Ephesians 4:16 Paul says that the body "grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." What steps do you need to take to more fully work toward this goal?

Pray

- Thank God for your calling to faith and the body of believers at RCC He has put you in. Ask for His help to maintain unity in our body at RCC. Ask for His help to promote growth through the use of our gift(s).
- Pray for those who accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and those who were baptized on Easter at the Park to continue their walk with the Lord. Pray for mature Christians to come beside them and disciple them towards maturity in Christ. Pray for our members to come beside others and disciple them.

Final Thought

What would RiverLakes look like if every member was actively using his/her gift in making disciples? What if everyone was an active, helpful member on the team? We would be an unstoppable force. Let's be an unstoppable force! Here we go, TEAM on 3. Are you ready? 1...2...3...TEAM!