

REDEEMPTIVE FAMILY

Small Group Study 4 - Doing Mission Together as a Family

THE BIG IDEA: So far on this journey we've discovered that as Christians we're designed to be family, embracing the place where we are and fulfilling our mission of nurturing redemptive relationships with the people we know. Today we will see that God never intended our mission to be done alone.

OPEN

1. Have you ever been in a team that worked together to achieve something special? How did that make you feel?

2. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you wished you had backup?

DIG

Read Ephesians 4: 1-16

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (NIV)

3. Verse 1 exhorts us to live a life worthy of our calling. How do verses 2-7 fill in the picture of how such a life intersects with others in the family?

4. Verse 8 points out that God has given gifts to His people. What is the purpose of these gifts according to verses 11-13?

5. Five giftings are listed in verse 11. How do these help us do mission together as a family? Are there other gifts? How have you been gifted?

6. Verse 16 says the body will grow and be built up as we submit to Christ and as each part does its work. Are you experiencing the body growing spiritually and numerically? Can you see the part you are meant to play?

REFLECT

7. What does 'speaking the truth in love' mean (v.15)? Should we be more accountable to each other about the part we are playing in the mission of our church family?

8. What is one thing this group can do to be 'backup' for each other in the redemptive relationships we each have?