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## ***EPHESIANS 4:11-16***

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### **GETTING STARTED...**

What is the most useful gift you have ever gotten? Often times we think about gifts as merely things to enjoy but often some of the most needed gifts are those that actually serve a purpose. When God gives us gifts more often than not they are in the latter category. God gives us gifts not simply so that we can enjoy them, (though often we will!) but so that we can use them. God gives each member of his family gifts to use to build up the church. God has equipped each believer to serve in a unique way to see the unity of the church preserved and matured. God designed the church to work in such a way that we would grow together to be more like Christ, and each Christian is needed for that to work properly.

### **READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

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<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> 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.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE WORD**

1. What imagery does Paul use to describe the church in this passage? What imagery does he use to describe maturing in Christ?
2. What is the purpose of the church from this passage? What is our role in the goal of the church?

### **REFLECTING ON THE SERMON**

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

*Agassiz/Lake Errock* How might God be leading you to mature your faith? What areas of ministry do you feel called to? Where might God be leading you to serve that feels like a stretch? What ways have others in the Church helped to build you up? In what ways have you seen yourself help to build the Church up in love?

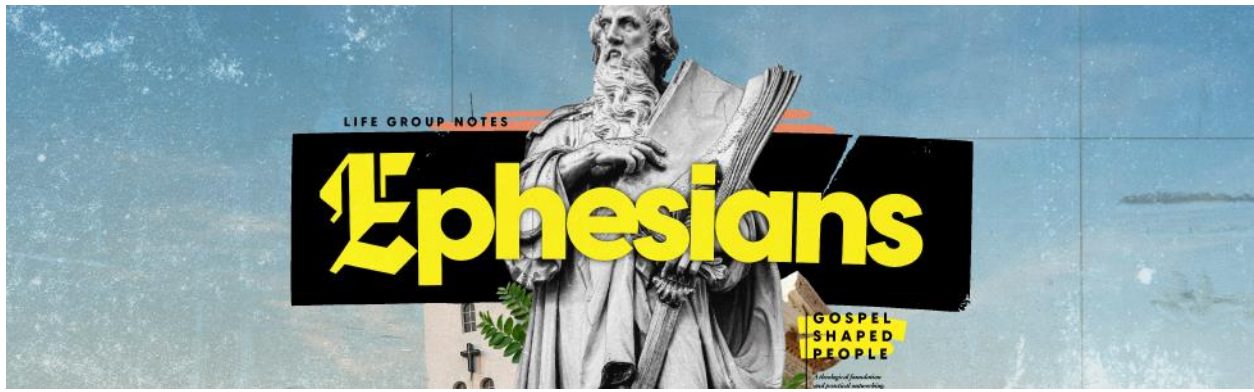
*Chilliwack* What unique gifts has Christ empowered you with? How are you using these gifts to serve and build up the church? When you think about speaking the truth in love, which aspect of the equation do you find yourself leaning towards? How might you begin to correct in order to hold both Truth and Love in Spirit empowered balance?

*Harrison* As you seek to build up the body of Christ, how good are you at speaking the truth in love? Do you tend to err on the side of uttering harsh truth or avoiding conflict in the name of "love"? How might you grow in this area?

*Promontory* What role does the church play in your spiritual life? How has the church helped you mature in Christ? How has God gifted you to build up His church? What priority have we placed on unity in the church? How can we build into this?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?  
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*