

Week Four: "Gifts"

Day One: "Apportioned by Christ"

Read: Ephesians 4:7-11 and review memory work (Read Ephesians 4:1-6 five times, recite Ephesians 4:1-6 once).

Reflect: Make a quick list of the myriad of different ways that Madison Square Church is diverse.

Dig: The word "but" is meant as a signal to contrast the unity of verses 3-6 with what follows. What is the unity contrasted with?

What does Christ give us?

Compare this passage in Ephesians to Romans 12:3. What do you learn?

Who decides what exactly we need -- how much and what kind of grace?

Apply: What grace has Christ specifically given to you?

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Day Two: "Christ is Heading an Army"

Read: Ephesians 4:7-11

Reflect: How well are you equipped to fight the daily fight for holiness?

Dig: This passage (verse 8) is actually a quotation from Psalm 68:18. Look up this Psalm and answer these questions:

- Note how this Psalm begins and closes. What is the theme?
- What is the difference between Ephesians 4:8 and Psalm 68:18?
- Who are the "captives"? See Ephesians 1:21-22 for an answer to this question.

Apply: In this space, compose a prayer asking Christ to lead you into battle against sin today.

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Day Three: "Five-fold Ministry"

Read: Ephesians 4:7-11

Reflect: Recall an instance when someone (parent, teacher, preacher, coach, good friend) said something to you that set a positive direction in your life. (e.g. "you can do anything you set your mind on." Or, "you have a great heart.") In this space, write out what that "word" was and how it has affected you.

Dig: Write down what all five of these "gifts" that Paul lists in Ephesians 4:11 have in common: for example, they all need people.

According to this verse (verse 11), who naturally gives us our church leaders (no matter how they are selected)?

Look up Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. How does this study of these verses help you understand how church leaders are to operate so that they are gifts of grace to us?

Apply: Since all five servants/roles mentioned here (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) use words to speak into your life, recall something transformative that has been spoken to you by one of your spiritual leaders. Write it down here:

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Day Four: "Importance of the Word"

Read: Ephesians 4:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Reflect: Think of the significant decisions you've made within the last month or so. What informed your decision-making process the most--culture, tradition, reason, or emotion? How much did God's word inform your decision-making process? How much does God's word inform/direct your daily living?

Dig: Notice that all the five "gifts" or ministries that Paul lists in Ephesians 4:11 have to do with the Word of God.

Who wrote 2 Timothy 3:14-17 this and to whom was he writing? See the heading on this section or go back to chapter 1.

What role does this passage tell us that scripture played in Timothy's upbringing?

List 6 attributes/uses of scripture seen in this passage. (Hint: Look at more than simply verse 16).

Go back over each one and think about the ways you have seen these specific attributes of scripture working within your life. Be as specific as possible--for example, think of a passage of scripture that has corrected you.

Apply: What "good works" (verse 17) are you going to do today? Have you allowed the word of God to equip you for this?

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Day Five: Memory Work

Read: Ephesians 4:1-11

Read the verse ten times out loud.

Recite the verses out loud from memory.

You are done for the day.