

## Week Five: "Growing Out of Infancy"

### Day One: "You Are Not Just a Lay Person!"

**Read: Ephesians 4:12-14** *"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until 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. Then 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 men in their deceitful scheming."*

**Reflect:** Do you think of yourself as a minister?

Who do you know that is in full-time Christian service?

**Dig:** How is verse 12 related to verse 11?

According to this passage, what is a pastor's job description?

A church sign said:

**Ministers: All the people**

**Pastor: John Smith**

Is that sign accurate to what Ephesians 4:11-14 teaches? Why or why not?

Are all believers in some sense priests?

(Look up 1 Peter 2:9-10 for a biblical answer)

**Apply:** Ask God to transform your thinking so that you no longer ever allow yourself to be described as "just a lay person" when it comes to ministry.

How might God be calling you to be a priest to some?

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### Day Two: "Our Goals"

**Read: Ephesians 4:12-14**

**Reflect:** Write out your answer to this question: What is your purpose in life?

**Dig:** According to verse 13, what are the three goals or purposes of spiritual gifts?

How is ministry described?

How does Colossians 1:28 describe the goal of our life?

Does this passage speak of individual maturity or corporate maturity or both?

*(Give evidence from the text to support your answer).*

**Apply:** If the measure of your maturity is a sense of unity and the fullness of Christ, and you could give yourself a grade (A-F), what grade would you give yourself?

**Week Five: "Growing Out of Infancy"**  
**Day Three: "Crap Detectors"**

**Read: Ephesians 4:12-14**

**Reflect:** What do you associate with the word "doctrine"?

Why do you have these associations?

**Dig:** In one word, how would you describe the way these verse characterize an "infant Christian"?

Are people who teach wrong doctrine simply misinformed or are they intentionally deceitful?

How does 1Timothy 4:1-2 describe false teachers?

Who is supposed to help us form crap detectors (sound doctrine)? See verse 11.

**Apply:** Do you intentionally try to learn good Christian teaching (doctrine)? How can you increase your maturity in receiving good teaching?

**Week Five: "Growing Out of Infancy"**  
**Day Four: "Speaking the Truth in Love"**

**Read: Ephesians 4:12-14**

**Reflect:** Do you tend more toward the prophetic side (speaking truth) or the mercy side (in love)?

**Dig:** How does the introductory word "instead" function here? That is, how does verse 15 contrast with verse 14?

According to verse 15, what are we supposed to do with the truth?

What will be the result of speaking the truth in love?

How many times is Christ mentioned either by title "Christ" or a pronoun ("he", "him") in verses 11-16?

What significance do you attach to Christ's being mentioned that often?

**Apply:** To whom do you need to speak the truth in love?  
Ask God for the courage and wisdom to do so.

**Week Five: "Growing Out of Infancy"**  
**Day Five: Memory Work**

**Read: Ephesians 4:1-14**

Step 1: Last weeks verses first: Ephesians 4:7-11  
(Read it)

Step 2: Recite Ephesians 4:7-11

Step 3: All verses next, Ephesians 4:1-11

Step 4: Read Ephesians 4:12-14 ten times out loud.

Step 5: Recite Ephesians 4:12-14 ten times from memory.