Small Group Discussion Guide

PATHWAY

We Are United

SERIES BIG IDEA
Working through the book of Ephesians, we will discover where we are, and our next step on our PATHWAY with Jesus.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA
We are united as followers of Jesus for a purpose.

OPENING QUESTIONS
1. How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting your life right now?
2. What needs do you see in our community as a result of this pandemic?

UNITED AS ONE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD
In a world wide season of social distancing and isolation, it is interesting to look at what Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians about how we are supposed to operate as united followers of Jesus in the church.

Ephesians 4:1-6 - I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

3. Paul calls us to be humble, gentle, patient, loving, peaceful. Which of these words best describes you in this season of your life? Explain.

WHAT UNITES US? GOD
It is the Spirit of God that unites us and allows us live out the character qualities listed above. Paul uses the word ONE a lot in the verses above.

4. What do you think it means practically to be ONE with other followers of Jesus?
5. How do you feel united to other followers of Christ? If you do not feel united, what are the barriers for you?

HOW ARE WE UNITED? GRACE
Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

We are all on level playing field. We all need the grace of God. None of us is better or more important or less important than anyone else.

6. The ground is level at the foot of the cross. What does this statement mean and how does it make you feel?

Ephesians 4:11-15 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his 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 people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, 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.

WHY ARE WE UNITED? GROWTH

7. What does Paul say equips us for good works of service?

8. How does being united with other followers of Jesus help us become mature?

Ephesians 4:16 From him [God] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

As Christ Followers working together we build up the body of Christ in the world. More people find their way back to God.

9. What special gifts or opportunities has God given you for the purpose of serving others in the name of Christ, especially during this season of COVID-19 pandemic?

MICRO GROUP

Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Micro groups should be same sex – all men or all women. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

10. Share something you plan to do in order to serve those around you in the next few weeks?

H2O – Habits to Outcome

Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, accountability, journaling, and serving) lead to the outcomes of Character Transformation* and Calling Activation*. In this series we will focus on the habit of Bible engagement as we read through the Book of Ephesians together.

Last week we read through Ephesians 3 and journaled something God was saying to us.

11. Share what you journaled with the group.

12. How did it go praying Ephesians 4:14-21 for each other this week?

This week we will:

Read Ephesians 4 and journal these two questions: What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

Check out PATHWAY (pathway.restorecc.org). Go to Follower/Practice and fill out the GPS assessment to learn your Gifts, Passions and Story, be prepared to share what you learned with the group next week.

Close your micro group by praying for each other.

*Character Transformation means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

*Calling Activation means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)