

Lesson 7: Unity on Mission — Moving Forward Together

Hello everyone. I hope that you are all doing well.

Over the last several weeks, we have been learning about unity and trust—two things that are not just helpful for our teams, within Impact a Life, but absolutely essential if we want to do the work God has called us to do. Each week we have talked about and worked through a number of different ways that we can be more unified, as followers of Christ and members of our ILF teams.

We have talked about:

- The Power of Humility in Unity
- How important it is to know our battle is against the enemy, NOT each other
- About the importance of Forgiving one another and Reconciling our differences
- That we have to work at Building trust with one another
- and that Building a Culture of Unity within our teams reflects Jesus Christ.

Today, I am going to close out our series on Unity with this truth.. **God's mission moves forward when His people are united.** Unity is not just a nice idea—it is something that Jesus is calling each of us to embrace as His followers.

Let's just be honest for a moment. In most countries and communities across the world including our own countries, **division is normal**. I see it everyday, as I'm sure you do as well. Whether it is our tribe or village, our language, maybe it's our background, tradition, or the caste system that we were born into - people often separate themselves into groups. But Jesus calls us to something greater.

In **John 17** Jesus offers this powerful prayer. In this chapter, Jesus is talking to God the Father just before He goes to the cross to be crucified.

In **vs. 11** Jesus prays "... Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are."

And in **verses 20-23** he continues his prayer... "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one... and may **they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.**"

Jesus is praying for his disciples at this moment, but he is also praying for you and I. **Our unity is meant to show the world who Jesus is.** So when we serve side by side, whether we are in Sierra Leone, in India, or across the world, people don't just see us... They see Christ in us.

As we have discussed in previous lessons, being unified is not always easy. There are so many influences that the enemy is using to try and pull us away from each other, but that's not what God desires for His people.

In Nehemiah 4:6–21, God's people were in the middle of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem under Nehemiah's leadership. Once restored, this wall would symbolize protection, identity, and unity for the Israelites. The passage tells us that while they worked, they were surrounded by enemies, ridiculed, and constantly threatened with attack. They had every reason to give up—but they didn't.

Nehemiah, leading the effort, was moved by faith in God's promises. The people trusted that God was working through him. So, with tools in one hand and weapons in the other, the Israelites pressed on. They were a community under God's authority, united in their purpose to rebuild. They prayed, they protected one another, and they refused to let fear or division take root. Everyone had a role, and no one stood alone.

When I read this story, I can't help but think, this is exactly what our teams should look like: united in heart, mission, and in service to one God. When we are truly unified, encouraging one another, defending one another, and praying for one another, we become stronger than any obstacle the enemy throws our way.

Can you imagine how much our villages, cities, and even entire nations could change if we simply chose to be united in our mission, to love Jesus and love one another well? That kind of unity doesn't happen by accident. It means staying committed even in the hard seasons of life, during challenges at work, or when conflict arises in our communities.

Pursuing unity isn't always easy, especially in places where division has taken root for years—but it's worth the fight. And we don't fight alone. Just as God helped the Israelites persevere in Nehemiah chapter 4, Jesus will help us press forward-together.

Here are some thoughts as to how we can move forward and protect unity in our teams:

- **Prayer** — Not just for each other, but with each other. Praying together will soften our hearts and unite purpose.
- **Accountability** — Speaking truth in love. If there's a problem, don't gossip. Go directly to your brother or sister in Christ.
- **Celebrate Shared Wins** — Celebrate each other's success. When one team member succeeds, we all succeed. No jealousy. No comparison.

Can you do me a favor? Can you come together as a team and choose **one shared prayer focus or one mission goal** that you will pursue together this month? I would like you to write it down and pray over it every week together and then encourage one another to keep going. Again,

talk with your team to choose one shared prayer focus or mission goal for your team. Would you share that prayer with us, so we can come alongside you in prayer as well?

Brothers and Sisters, we are the body of Christ. We may speak different languages or live in different nations—but we serve the same God. And when we walk in unity, letting Christ lead us - **individuals will see Jesus... our communities will see Jesus... and our nation will see Jesus..** Let's commit to being a team that doesn't just talk about unity—but chooses to fight for it. Let's move forward together, for the glory of Jesus.