

DEEPER ROOTS

April 29-May 4

Planting Seeds: Read Acts 6:1-7, Ephesians 4:1-16

In this story, the church is rapidly growing. The movement of Jesus is capturing the hearts, minds, and lives of people. The early church considered it vitally important to look after the elderly, the children, the women, the poor, and those who were in need, those who were without power in their society. In this story they saw that the Greek widows were not being provided for, and it was important that they develop a fair way to ensure that everyone was being taken care of. Unity was a priority. In Ephesians four we read where Paul instructs us on unity in the body. He thinks it is important we walk in unity of the Spirit, maintaining the bond of peace. It requires humble hearts and gentle words to do this. If we walk in pride, and speak with anger, disdain, resentment, and grievance, there will not be unity. The Apostles didn't sit around and argue about who was to blame for their current problem. Instead, they crafted a solution. They drafted volunteers to go and do the work, men walking in humility and gentleness. If we will be the men and women that God wants us to be, it will require us to discipline ourselves in gentleness and humility. **Why is unity so important for the church? Who are people that you think of as models of humility and kindness? Where do you see them display these traits? How can you grow this week in humility and kindness?**

Digging Deep: Read Acts 6, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:1-8

One of the great metaphors of the New Testament is that of the church as a body. We are all different, we are all unique, none of us has the same calling from God. However, we are all connected. We all need each other. Your job is not my job, and vice versa. But I need you, and you need me. When one member of the body is not doing their job, the entire body suffers. When one person walks in disobedience and defiance, all of us fall short of the fullness of what God has in store for us. But, when we all serve in faithfulness, we all prosper. We all need each other. This is a terrifying thought. This is also an encouraging and hopeful thought. You don't have to do it all by yourself. When you are struggling, God has prepared and equipped someone to help you and serve you. When you need that help, don't be afraid to turn to your neighbor and ask for it. God has given us to each other for a reason. The enemy wants to keep us apart. **How has God gifted and equipped you to serve the body? How have you seen God bless you through the gifts of others?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 4.29-5.4.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.