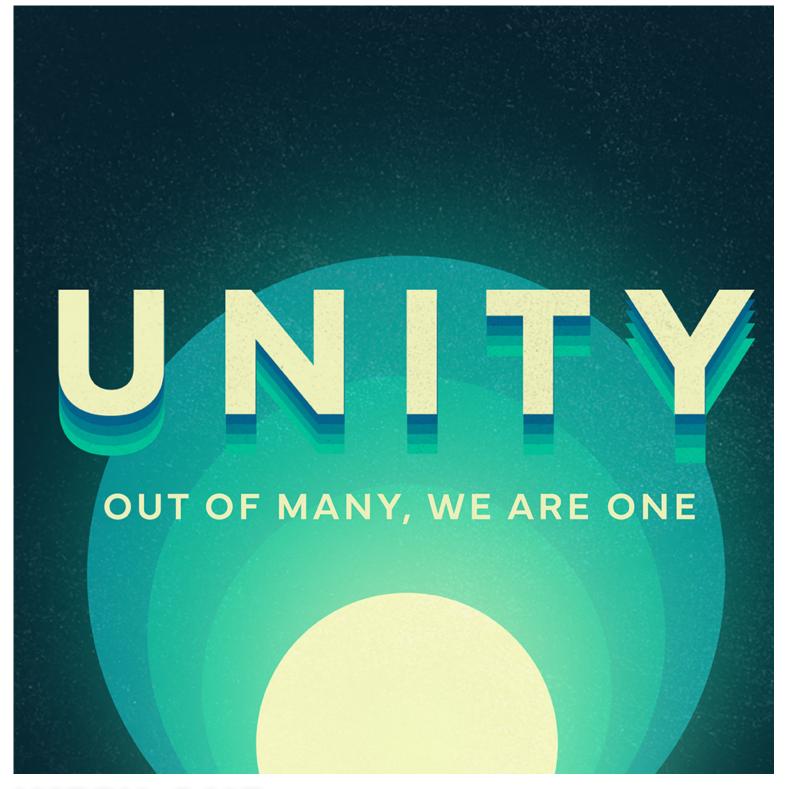


OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

LEADER'S GUIDE WEEKS 1-4



WEEK ONE

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

BIG IDEA

Giant Sequoias are massive redwood trees that grow along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. They can live for up to 3,400 years, growing to average heights of 164-279 feet tall, with an average diameter of 20-26 feet. They are the most massive trees on earth, growing tall in order to reach the sunlight through dense forest areas. Despite their size, their roots are barely below the ground surface. Yet, they can sustain winds of 50-100 mph or more during the winter months without blowing over. The key is that Sequoias only grow in groves. While their roots aren't deep, they intertwine with each other under the ground. As the storms come, the giant trees support each other with their strong root system.

As followers of Christ, we are the same! When we first follow Christ, we don't have deep roots, so we need the "grove" of others in order to stand strong amid the storms of life. On our own, we would be blown over, uprooted, or destroyed. We need each other for support as we grow through the difficult times and towards the Son! In this week's study, we will look at how we can support one another and live together in unity as we follow Christ.

NOTES

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

<u>Passages we'll review:</u>	
Ephesians 2:19–22; Isaiah 28:16;	
1 Corinthians 1:10; John 16:7; Psalm	133:1-3

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

Think of a group that you consider to be "framily". What created a sense of community in this group? What makes strangers become friends?

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that affected you more than others?

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE

THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

READ

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

Paul reminds us that we are members of God's household. What does it mean to be part of God's household? How does being a part of His family differ from being strangers and aliens?

(As a part of God's household, we are part of His family, adopted into the body of Christ. Sin has separated us from God, but when we make the decision to follow Him, we are given a new citizenship. We are no longer strangers or aliens, but are now treated as His children and heirs. Just as the Gentiles were once separated from God's chosen nation, through Christ, all people can be a part of His new nation - a holy nation!)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES

ccordina 1	to	Paul,	what	is	the	foundation	of	

the church? Why is it so important that the Church is built on this foundation? What happens when it isn't?

(The foundation of the Church was laid by those who lived with and learned from Christ during His time here on earth. They are the ones who told us of His teachings and revealed His miracles to us. They were taught by Christ, and they passed on His truths to all who followed after them. We must be sure that we build on the truths of Christ, not on modern ideas and interpretations of His truths. The enemy seeks to lead us away from His truths, and will do whatever it takes to pull us away from the firm foundation of Christ. When we stray from His truth, we are choosing to reject Christ and His teaching. Without His truth, we are headed for death and despair.)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES

What does a building's cornerstone do? What does it mean that Christ is our Cornerstone? Why is this important for us as the Church? (See Isaiah 28:16)

(The cornerstone is the stone that is laid a the corner of a structure to bind two walls together and strengthen them. In the life o Church, the cornerstone represents the and prominence. As the Chie strength Cornerstone, Christ holds everything together As He draws people to Himself, He continues build up the Church today! He binds together those who follow Him and gives us His strength to stand firm through all of life's challenges. We need Him to strengthen us and to help us connect with other believers in love and truth.)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES

Mark Sayers writes, "A post-Christian culture is an attempt to advance the goals of Christianity without Christ. It's the Kingdom without the King." America is often described as a "post-Christian" nation. What are some things in today's society that can compete with Christ as our cornerstone? Why might we be tempted to choose a different foundation? How can we resist this?

(Money, fame, power, popularity, health, possessions, and material personal satisfaction are all things that can compete with Christ as our cornerstone. In today's society, many try to replace Biblical truths with popular opinion or the authority of others. They seek the benefits of Christ without connecting to the Christian faith, living a life that focuses more on their own values and desires instead of living a Godcentered life. We must remember that our redemption only comes through Christ and His victory over sin and death. There is no other foundation that we can depend on!)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES

How does being "in Him" affect our relationships with other believers in the church? How does it affect those who don't know Him?

(When we are in Christ, His Spirit dwells within us. He takes all of us, separate and different, and unites us in Him. He builds us up to be His Church, no longer just a building, but a living, breathing vessel that brings Him worship and praise. We ought to reveal His character through the things we say and do and in how we live our lives. As a result, He is able to reveal Himself through us, in order that the world may see Him in our lives and want to know Him for themselves.)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE

has done. Open for discussion.)

THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 Why are cliques and divisions within the church so damaging? (Division in the church reveals that we are not a team focused on one purpose glorifying God. Division hinders our growth in Christ. It takes our focus off of our responsibility to share Christ with others, and it gives the world the wrong view of Christ. We should live in a way that reflects and represents Him.) We live in a world that is constantly pushing against the truth of God's Word. What can you do to live in the light of the Gospel and resist the pressures of the world? (We must make the decision to not allow our personal preferences to divide us. We must focus on Christ first - who He is and what He

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

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DIGGING DEEPER

Read Psalm 133:1-3

Have you experienced a time where you realized how 'good and pleasant' it is to live in unity? Describe your experience.

(Open for discussion)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

NOTES

How would you respond to someone who says, "I love Jesus, but I don't love His church"?

(Open for discussion)

As we live together in harmony with one another, we can experience God's strength and renewal as we serve Him together in unity. In Him, we can experience an abundant life. Because of His grace and mercy, we know that we have the promise of eternal life, and we can live in a manner that shows the world around us the difference He can make in our lives!

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WEEK ONE THE CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

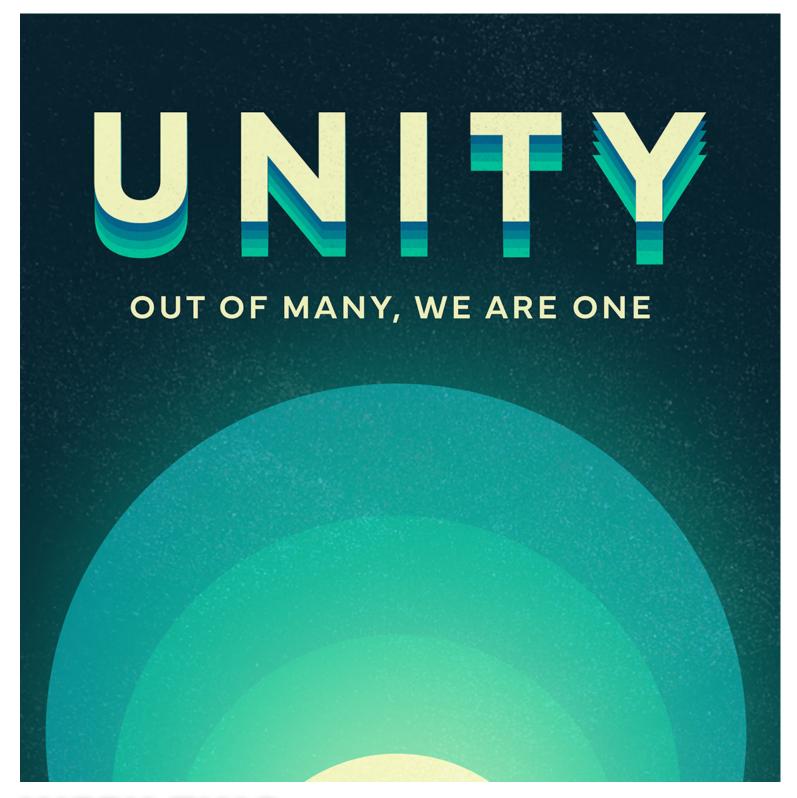
PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Have you experienced God's grace for yourself? Are you spiritually dead or distant from God? Or have you received His gift of eternal life? If you haven't experienced His grace and salvation, don't wait any longer! Talk to your LifeGroup leader or one of our pastors.
- If you are a believer in Christ, are you telling others about Him? Do you share the Good News of His salvation? Do you walk in "newness of life"?
- Christ should be the standard of everything we do! As we align with Him, we will also find that we can live in unity with other believers. Disagreement doesn't have to mean division. When you find yourself in disagreement with other believers, remember to seek His will first, and work together to live a life that brings Him glory and honor.

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WEEK TWO

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

BIG IDEA

In order for us to live in unity as God has commanded us, we must make the decision to live sacrificially. For most Christians, this doesn't mean giving up your life to be a martyr in physical sacrifice. Rather, it involves the daily sacrifices of our time, our money, and ourselves through acts of love for God and others.

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. This means that we live our lives in a way that demonstrates God's love, mercy, and grace to others – both believers and unbelievers. But we cannot do it by our own efforts! We must renew our minds in order that we may focus on God's ways. Only when we have a right relationship with God can we have a right relationship with one another. This week, we will look at what God can do through a body of believers who have a thriving relationship with one another through Him.

<u>Passages we'll review:</u>

Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:10-18

NOTES

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

How did you feel about going to church as a kid? Explain.

What are the perks of having community with others? What are the risks?

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that affected you more than others?

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

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Read Acts 2:42-47

American culture often focuses on individualism, consumerism, and materialism. What were the core values of the early church? Which of these values stands out to you the most? Explain.

(The early church was focused on teaching, fellowship, breaking bread/Lord's Supper, prayer, caring for one another, meeting together, worshiping God, and spreading the Gospel message to those around them. Open for discussion.)

How is fellowship different from socializing?

(True fellowship is more than just hanging out together. It signifies having things in common with others and sharing with each other, in material things as well as spiritual things. It includes encouraging fellow believers, building each other up, and motivating one another as we grow in Christ.)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

NOTES

In our culture today, what obstacles and distractions can interfere with our devotion to community as believers? How do we steer clear of these things? Why is community so important in the life of the church?

(We can be distracted by many things, including individualism, a false sense of community through social media/technology, extracurricular activities, hobbies, work, possessions, reputation, our own ego, etc. We fight against these things by allowing Christ to guide our steps. When Christ is a living reality to us, we can't just turn Him on and off. His power is constantly at work within us. We must continually grow to become more like Him and serve Him. God is a relational God. Since we are created in His image, we need other believers to encourage us and hold us accountable. We can't fight all on our own!)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

NOTES

Why did the early church experience glad/joyful hearts (verse 46)? Why is this essential to every church, including CrossPointe Church?

(They experienced joyful hearts as a result of their unity in Christ and their focus on Christ alone. They learned how to live together, work together, and love one another. They were generous with what God had given them. As they grew in Christ, they produced His fruit, the fruit of the Spirit. This is essential in every church, because unity should be what sets us apart as believers in Christ. Our church involvement shouldn't just be a obligation that we check off, but it should be a community that we belong to and interact with regularly. As we focus on Him alone, we are unified, He is magnified, and we can multiply as we share His Good News!)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

Why do you think the early church experienced such growth? How can we follow their example here at CrossPointe?

(People were drawn to the early Christians because of the way they lived their lives, both individually and with one another. They loved and served God and one another. It wasn't about programs or numbers. They worshiped, they worked, and they witnessed all for His sake, and then God grew the church as they worked together to serve Him. Open for discussion.)

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Read Romans 12:10-18

Our relationships with others depend greatly on the attitudes and actions of our hearts. Paul mentions several things that we should pursue as followers of Christ. Which of these seems most difficult? Why?

(Open for discussion)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

What does authentic community look like according to verses 10-13?

(We show genuine love for each other, honoring one another because of who we are Christ. We should do everything in enthusiasm, allowing the Spirit to motivate us to serve Him honorably. We can rejoice with one another, knowing our eternal home. We can support each other as we endure the hardships we face because we know that they are inevitable, but also that we have hope for our future. We pray continually, not just during the hard times, but in order to keep us connected to Him and to support those who need, physically, spiritually, in are emotionally. We are to be in a partnership with one another as we share what we have with those in the body of Christ.)

What must we do as a faith family in order to be a community that draws people to Christ?

(We must live in harmony with each other and seek to live at peace with one another. As we have received His grace, we should be willing to offer that same grace to others. We can allow His love and grace to flow from our lives for others to see and experience.)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY FLOCK!

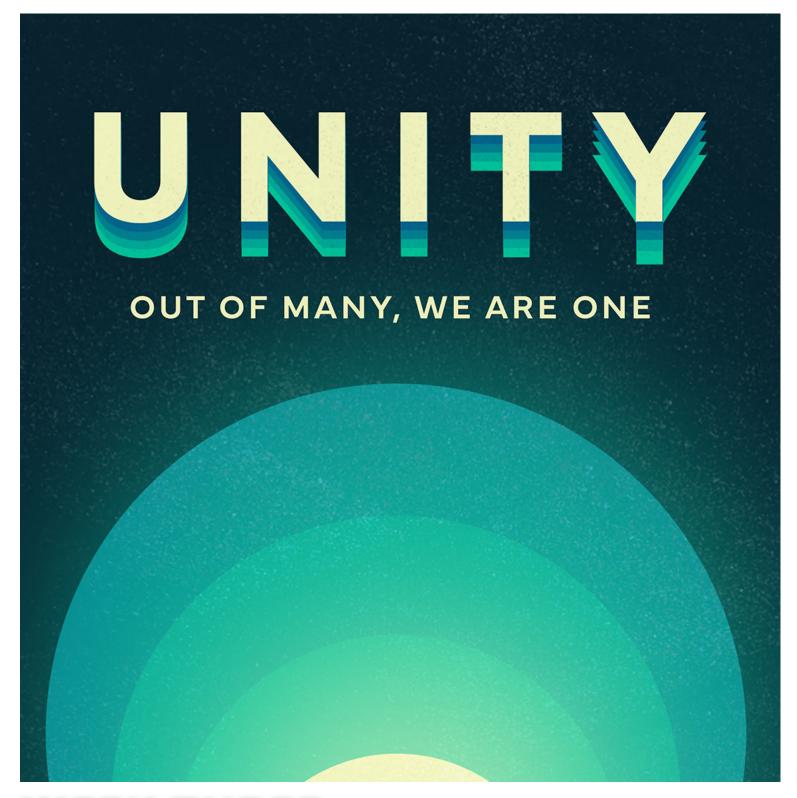
A healthy community draws people to Christ. Our love for one another and our passion to worship and serve God will be contagious as we share it with others!

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Consider the following as you pray together:

- What do you continually devote yourself to doing? How might you better align your life to be devoted to the things of Jesus?
- How are you challenged to refine or refocus your attitudes, actions, and practices in order to encourage others in our faith family?
- The early church didn't just make converts; they made disciples! Who in your life can you share your faith with? Who can you encourage to grow deeper in their walk with Christ?



WEEK THREE

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

BIG IDEA

Growing up, you may have heard the old adage, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." While this old proverb was intended to be a retort to bullying, taunts, and insults, we know that it is far from true. In fact, it is usually the opposite that is true. While broken bones can hurt terribly for a time, they can be reset and eventually heal. Words, however, can make a lasting impression. Words that are muttered thoughtlessly by one person can be etched forever in the memory of the one receiving them. Even the words that we know are really not true can find their way back into our minds when we find ourselves in difficult, trying times.

As followers of Christ, we must remember that the words we say DO matter, even when we are only joking. We must be careful to speak words that encourage and uplift, rather than wound and tear down. Even the manner in which we speak, our tone and our expression, can either wound deeply or provide strength and healing to others. It is our responsibility to make sure that the words we speak give life to those around us. This week, we will look at the importance of our words and the power that they carry.

NOTES

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

Passages we'll review:	NOTES
Matthew 12:33-37; Philippians 4:8; James 3:6-10; Proverbs 18:20-21; Psalm 19:14	
OPENING	
What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?	
Think of a time when someone spoke words to you (good or bad) that created a lasting memory for you. Why did their words have such an impact?	
In what kind of situation is it most difficult for you to "keep your mouth shut?" Why?	
WATCH Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.	
What jumped out at you from the video in this	

session? What are some of the key points that

impacted you more than others?

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

READ

Read Matthew 12:33-37

Is it possible to hide what is in your heart for the long term? Can you always speak good things if your heart is full of bitterness?

(No. Jesus reveals that our words will reflect what is the true nature of our hearts. While we may fool all of the people some of the time, we can't hide everything from everyone all of the time. It is usually what we say when we find ourselves challenged or under pressure that the true nature of our hearts is revealed. When we harbor bitterness in our hearts, it will come out when we let down our guard.)

As Warren Wiersbe wrote: "It is by our conversation at unguarded moments that we reveal our true character."

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE

YOUR WORDS MATTER!

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What careless or idle words do we speak? What about words spoken in anger?

(The careless words we speak are the things we say without thinking of their impact. They are words that accomplish nothing. Often, words that are they are casual and thoughtless, not benefitting anyone. Other times, they are words that can wound because of our thoughtlessness. Our words spoken in anger are words that reveal the true nature of our hearts. for Open discussion.)

Why are our actions more important than our words?

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

(Jesus reminded those following Him that their words revealed the true nature of their hearts. It isn't the actual, literal words that are the issue, since the words are merely an overflow of the heart within. We must remember that the state of the heart affects our words and actions! At times, we can say all the right things, but the actions we actually carry out will reveal what is truly in our hearts, much like the old saying, "Do as I say, not as I do." The problem lies at the core of who we are - our sin nature. That which is hidden inside our hearts will eventually spill out through our actions and our words. Our hearts, words, and actions don't just affect us, but also those we interact with, so we must be on guard so as not to lead others astray.)

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According to Philippians 4:8, how can we fill our hearts with things that will produce good fruit?

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

(The things that we dwell on are the things
that others will see flow out of us. If we want
to produce good fruit, then we must focus on
the things of God - the things that are true,
honorable, right or just, pure, lovely,
admirable or commendable, excellent, and
praiseworthy. We cannot be good by our own
efforts. Only as the Spirit fills us and works in
us can we be changed into the image of
Christ!)

NOTES

Read James 3:6-10

Have you ever made statements that contradict each other? Think about the ways the tongue reflects our spiritual growth. What shows immaturity or lack of growth? What reflects positive growth in Christ?

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

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(When our words fluctuate between good and	
evil things, there is a deeper heart issue in	
force. This is a sign of spiritual immaturity.	
Those who don't follow Christ despise the	
things of God, and it is reflected in their	
words and actions. Our maturity in Christ is	
established from the inside out; as God	
changes our hearts from within, He also	
changes our attitude and also helps us to	
control our tongue.)	
Why is it so easy to forget the power that	
comes with the words we say? How do we	
change that?	

(Open for discussion)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

Read Proverbs 18:20–21	NOTES
How can rumors, gossip, and slander damage lives?	
(Open for discussion)	
Have you ever had words spoken to you that tore you down? How long did it take you to heal and forget?	
(Open for discussion)	
Have you ever experienced a time where you received "life-giving" words? What happened as a result?	
(Open for discussion)	

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE

YOUR WORDS MATTER!

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DIGGING DEEPER

Read Psalm 19:14

Would you change the way you live if you knew that your every word and thought would be examined by God first? Explain.

(Open for discussion)

We must remember that God does indeed know every word before we speak it as well as every thought that we have. Nothing is hidden from Him!

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

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How can the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart change your relationship to God and others?

(The words that we speak are evidence of the state of the heart. What we focus on is what we will reflect in our own lives, so we must be sure to focus on God and His Word. David presented his words and thoughts as an offering or sacrifice to God. As we focus on Him and sacrifice our own selfish desires and interests to Him, we will find ourselves drawing closer to God, becoming more like Him. As a result, our relationships with others will also improve, allowing us to introduce others to the love of Christ.)

"Sticks and stones may break bones, but words can shatter souls. Words matter. Choose wisely." (Unknown)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK THREE YOUR WORDS MATTER!

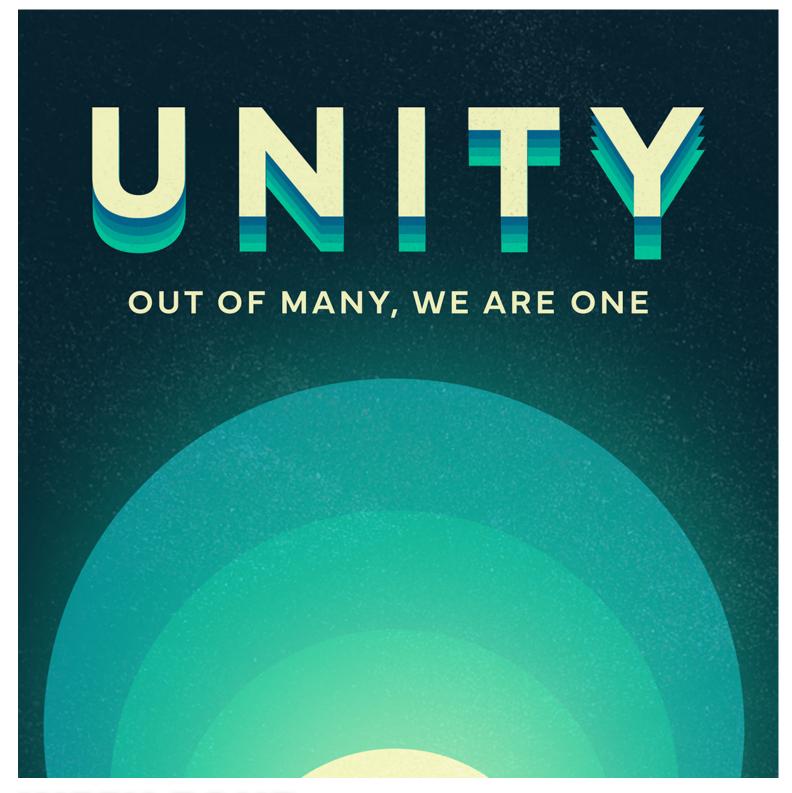
PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- When you reflect on your own life, what do your words reveal about the condition of your heart? Allow God to reveal to you the fruit of your words - both the words that bring death and the words that bring life. Knowing how powerful words can be, how will you live differently this week?
- Think of the times in which you are most likely to lose control of your tongue. Pray that God would help you to be aware of those times and help you to respond in a way that glorifies Him.
- If you don't already know it, commit Psalm 19:14 to memory. Reflect on it as you go through each day. Pray for opportunities this week to use your words to build others up and share the Good News of Christ with others!

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WEEK FOUR

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

BIG IDEA

The New York Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the oldest orchestras in the country. It was originally formed as a collective led by musicians who would select the music played, members who joined, and even the conductor. The Cambridge Dictionary defines an orchestra as: a large group of musicians playing different instruments and usually organized to play together and led by a conductor. While the instruments are all different, they are all necessary to create the beautiful music they perform. The conductor helps the members to prepare for performance, and then leads them as they perform. The term philharmonic actually means "loving harmony."

As followers of Christ, we are much like an orchestra. We are all different in size, shape, and prominence or importance, but we are all needed. Everyone has different parts to play. While some may be more popular or seem to always carry the melody, they lack the fullness needed on their own.

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

NOTES

As we serve Him, each member must make
sure to know their own parts, even if it seems
overly simple; for when it is put together, it
creates a beautiful masterpiece. This week,
we will look at what Jesus desires from each
of us as we unite with other believers and
discover the beauty that flows out of our unity
in Christ!

<u>Passages</u>	we'll	<u>review:</u>

1 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 4:1-3, 32; Romans 15:5-6; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

OPENING

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

What is the best team or group you have been a part of? What made it such a great experience?

What keeps a sports team unified?

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK

JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

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Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?

READ

Read 1 Peter 3:8

Peter gives us characteristics that are necessary to have unity with other believers. What do these five qualities look like practically (in everyday life)? Which do you find most difficult? Why?

(Open for discussion)

Are these qualities related to our relationship with God or with other people? Explain.

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR

JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

(These qualities begin with our relationship with God. All of these traits go back to one thing: the love of God. Without Him, we cannot display like-mindedness, sympathy, love, compassion, or humility. God can take our own characteristics and use them for our good and His glory as He molds us into His Image. Our relationship with God will affect our relationship with others. These traits can only truly come as a result of our unity in Christ!)

What are some things that can make it hard for believers to live in harmony with one another? How can we overcome this?

(It is difficult to live in harmony with one another when our focus is on us and not on God. We must also remember that God desires unity, not uniformity. We aren't supposed to be exact copies of one another. Rather, God desires that we work together, using our differences to edify the body of Christ, rather than tear it down. We should complement one another, remembering that we have the same purpose and goal - to serve and glorify God.)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

We must remember that God desires unity, not uniformity! When we follow God's lead as our conductor, we can live in harmony with other Christians. We each have our own parts, but we can complement one another in the process. The result is that the total of all the parts is greater than the sum of each part alone!

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Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 32

What does it mean to walk "worthy of the calling you have received?" What does it look like in our daily lives?

(Walking worthy of our calling means that we should act like who we actually are -followers of Christ! The words we say, the things we do, and the way we respond to circumstances should all reflect the character of Christ.)

OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR

JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

Paul gives us 5 characteristics that exemplify the calling placed on our lives. What are these characteristics, and why are they so important in our lives and in the lives of others?

(Humility comes when we put Christ first, accept His authority over our lives, and serve Him by serving others. "It means knowing ourselves, accepting ourselves, and being ourselves to the glory of God." (Warren Gentleness/meekness Wiersbe) isn't weakness, but power under control, much like a warhorse under the control of the rider, but trained to protect and serve the rider at all costs. Patience is trusting God's timing no matter what. Accepting one another in love means that we see each other as He sees us. and we encourage each other as we grow in Him. All of these characteristics help us to achieve the final one, unity. As we seek to keep the unity among one another, we choose to focus on making peace with each other over our own selfish gain. True unity can only come from inside of us by the work of the Spirit, and we must constantly work to keep unity among us! Without unity among believers, we cannot draw others to Him!)

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OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE

WEEK FOUR

JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

Tim Keller wrote: "Everyone says they want
community and deep friendship. However,
because it takes accountability and
commitment, we run the other way." What
are some of the enemies of unity we can
experience as followers of Christ? How can
we, as individuals, be better at community?
How can we, as CrossPointe Church, be
better at community?

(Open for discussion)

Read Romans 15:5-6

How can people who are very different find a true spirit of unity?

(When we allow Christ to be Lord of our lives, we will also share His values and His viewpoint. As we allow Him, God will develop in us the patience needed to work with others who are not like us. As we follow Him and submit to His will, He can mold us into the people He desires us to be and the people we need to be in order to serve Him.)

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WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

Why	is	it	so	important	that	we	are	of	"one
mind	"?								

(As followers of Christ, we cannot allow discord and dissension to infiltrate the church. We must choose to live in a way that is different and stands out to the world around us, all because of the God we worship! As the Church, we are the body and Christ is the head. When we are living in unity with one another, of one heart and one mind, we bring glory to God!)

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

God desires unity among His people. In our world today, what tends to pull relationships apart? How do you respond when you find yourself in these situations?

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WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

(Relationships can be sabotaged by disunity,
division, selfishness, isolation, etc. Our world,
much like Solomon's, is marked by selfish
ambition, personal satisfaction and "looking
out for number one." Open for discussion.)

What are the benefits of Christian community? How can we apply this in our LifeGroup? At CrossPointe?

(True friendships are priceless. Nothing tangible can replace the benefits of a healthy relationship with other believers. Even Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs (Luke 10). The work we accomplish when we work together is far greater than the sum of our individual efforts. Open for discussion.)

Remember that as a follower of Christ, we all have a part to play! It may be different from those of other believers, but it is just as important and necessary to accomplish the will of God. Do it all for the glory of God!

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UNIFY

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WEEK FOUR JESUS'S PRAYER FOR TRUE UNITY!

PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Think about your interactions with others.
 What words would people use to describe you? What steps do you need to take in order to better display the traits expressed in 1 Peter 3:8 and Ephesians 4:1-3?
- In light of all that God has done for us, we are called to walk worthy of the calling we have received. As you encounter various trials, challenges, and experiences, pray that God will help you to display His character to those around you.
- Remember that we are not expected to live this life alone! We need other believers! The enemy will seek to cause disunity, but we must always be on guard and work daily to keep unity among us. Pray for your LifeGroup, CrossPointe Church, and believers as a whole, that Christ would remain the focus and that He will be glorified, both now and in the time to come, through the lives of those who follow Him.

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