



CENTRE CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021
WEEK 3: ONE BUILDING
EPHESIANS 4:7-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In a society divided by race, politics, and economic status, the church has a higher calling to transcend all divisions through our devotion to Jesus. This series passages through Ephesians 4 and unpacks the beauty, the healing, and the power of Christian unity.

This message gives the powerful "how to" of Christian unity and how we as the church can practically grow into the mature body of Christ.

Put It Into Practice (CBCVA.ORG/ONESTEP)

Share a meal and your story.

Join a conversation environment.

Partner with Centre Church.

Sign-up to serve.

Seek care.



WEEK 3: ONE BUILDING D-GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET TO KNOW YOU

Do you consider yourself "handy" around the house? Why or why not? What's the most complex renovation or building project you've ever undertaken? How did that work out? How much respect do you have for people that can build or create something out of many different parts?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read Ephesians 4:7, 11. Jesus himself gave us grace (or grace giftings) as he apportioned it. To the best of your knowledge, what are the grace giftings you believe Jesus has given you? What are ways you put them to use for the Kingdom?*
- 2. Read Ephesians 4:8-10. What's one of the most expensive or costly gifts that has been given to you? How did you value or treat that gift differently than you might treat a \$10 gift card? With the price Jesus paid to give you your grace gifting, how should we treat and regard what Jesus uniquely gifted us with?*
- 3. Pastor Josh used the illustration of a sports team to describe the different roles we play in the body of Christ. How often and how easy is it to approach church as if the people in the pews are the audience in the stands, watching the star players like the preacher or worship leader exercise their gifting? Was that how you were taught (intentionally or unintentionally) to approach church growing up? What is the result of consumer Christianity in the church?*
- 4. How should church look and act different knowing that the pastors and elders are not the star players but the coaches? How does it change the way you look at your every day life knowing that you're the star player, and that your place is on the field, not on the bench or in the stands?*
- 5. Spend time encouraging each other with what grace giftings you might see within those in your D-Group and how those giftings can grow and mature this body of believers.*

Finish your time together with prayer. If you would like Centre Church to pray for anything in particular for you, let your D-Group Leader know.

D-GROUP LEADERS INFORMATION

D-Groups are online, sermon-based discussion groups at Centre Church. Whether you're a lifelong member of Centre Church or a joining us online from around the world, D-Groups are your opportunity to discuss Sunday's message, develop your faith and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A D-GROUP LEADER?

There are four main things we ask you be responsible for as a D-Group Leader:

- 1. Lead the D-Group discussion.** *Everyone should have watched (or heard) the message prior to the D-Group meeting and discussion questions are already provided. Your task is to facilitate the conversation, to make people feel welcome, to keep things flowing in the right direction.*
- 2. Pray for your D-Group members by name daily.** *During your time together, God can do mighty things in the lives of your D-Group members (and yours as well). It is your privilege to pray for your members by name daily, asking God to move mightily in their lives.*
- 3. Identify and encourage a next step for your D-Group members.** *Every person has a next step in their relationship with Jesus. Look for next steps your D-Group members might take in their faith and encourage them in those. Examples of next steps are listed in FAQs.*
- 4. Connect your D-Group with Centre Church.** *Centre Church wants to come alongside to strengthen and encourage your D-Group. If you haven't already, register your D-Group with Centre Church so that we can follow up with you, keep up with attendance through the links provided, and pass on any prayer requests and feedback to Centre Church staff for follow-up.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What online platform do I use to host the D-Group meeting? *Whatever platform is the most comfortable for you to use. There are both paid (e.g. Zoom) and free (e.g. Google Hangouts) options available. Set up the meeting and share the link with your D-Group members. If you'd like to open up your D-Group, you can also publicize your group through Centre Church and we will provide a Microsoft Teams video link you can use for no charge.*

How long does a D-Group last? *D-Groups are designed to be short-term groups that last as long as the sermon series or Bible study lasts. These short-term groups allow people to meet new people and study new topics without a long-term commitment. If your D-Group wants to continue to meet after the series or Bible study is over, your group can convert to a Community Group, which is a long-term group that meets either online or in person.*

What are some examples of next steps? *A person surrendering their life to Jesus, getting baptized, taking the Next Steps Track, partnering with Centre Church (church membership), giving financially, serving as a volunteer, meeting with a pastor, going on a mission trip, plugging into a long-term Community Group.*

What do I contact if I need help? *If you have any questions or need some help with your D-Group, please contact abigail.parker@cbcva.org and she will get you the help you need!*