

## Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Ephesians 1:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit —just as you were called to one hope when you were called — <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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

<sup>14</sup> 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 men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> 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.

# CORE

## 8 Essentials for the Church

Service

2/23/2020

Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:1-16

### MIRACLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. The miracles of Jesus, and then of the Apostles were a sign to the Jews that the new age of the **MESSIAH** they had been waiting for was finally **DAWNING**.
2. Any miracle, for the person receiving it, is real, practical, loving **SERVICE**.
3. Miracles and service to others are **SIGNS** that meet needs, and point people to **CHRIST**.

### FOUNDATIONS FOR SERVICE

1. We have the life of the **TRINITY** in us.
2. We live in spiritual **IMMATUREITY**.

**Everything that happens in the church is about preparing spiritual MATURITY. But, if that's the case, it means we're all IMMATURE.**

### MARKS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATUREITY

1. You're not **DISCERNING**.
2. You're **SELF - CENTERED**.
3. You're not **STEADY**.

### TWO TRUTHS HELD IN TENSION

1. Don't be **SHOCKED** at the immaturity of other Christians.
2. Don't put up with spiritual immaturity in **YOURSELF**.

### THE HARD WORK OF CREATING **UNITY** IN THE CHURCH.

*Core Practice:* **SERVE** one another, so that the Body of Christ may be build up.

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### GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

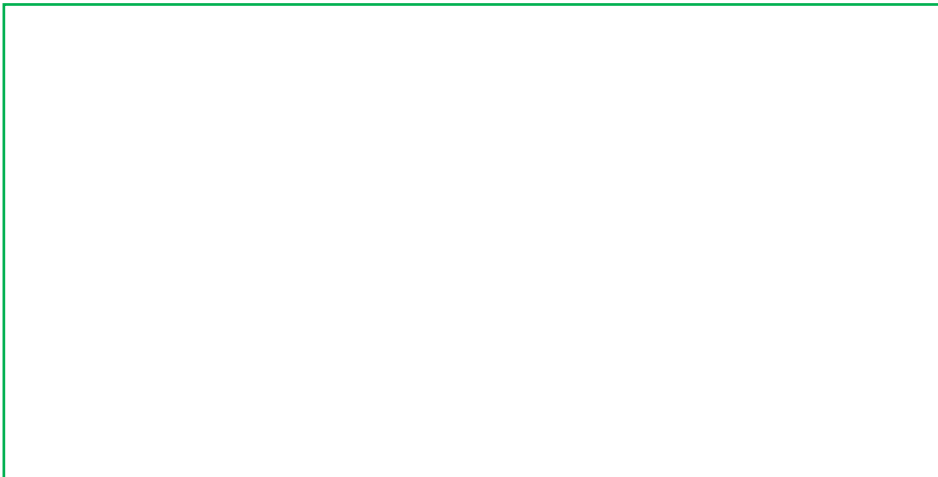
#### GETTING STARTED

1. Share one story about one of the best opportunities you've had to serve others within the church, or in your everyday life. What made it so great?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

READ Ephesians 4:1-16

2. Now, put your childlike artist hat on. Take 3 minutes and use this square to draw a picture that shows a strength or gift that you have, or a way that you think you can serve.



Take 30 seconds to describe what you drew, and why.

3. As you look at Ephesians 4:1-16,
- Name one problem that this passage identifies.
  - Name one solution this passage recommends.

4. How does serving others help us (and them) grow up into Christlike maturity?

#### GETTING PERSONAL

5. How do you think God is calling you to serve within the church?

6. How do you think God is calling you to serve outside the church, in your everyday life?

#### BRINGING IT HOME

7. What is a barrier in your life that is keeping you from serving?

Draw a picture of how having to draw a picture made you feel (*just kidding...*)

8. In light of the passage, or what you've discussed, what is one way you'd like to take another step in PRAYER?

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

#### PRAY TOGETHER