



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. ICEBREAKER: It's almost Thanksgiving. Share something that you're thankful for today that you never thought you'd be thankful for. (when did your level of gratitude change and why?)
2. In today's message pastor Wes listed out some reasons we can be thankful out of Ephesians 4:7-16. Read the passage again. What things are you thankful for from this passage?
3. The first thing Paul mentions in v 7 is the gift of God's grace given to each one of us. What grace gift does Paul have in mind specifically? Why do you think that? What other manifestations of God's grace are you thankful for in your life? (see Ephesians 1:1-4:6)
4. In v 8 Paul narrows in on spiritual gifts. What other passages in the NT speak to spiritual gifts? As you think about what Scripture says concerning spiritual gifts, in what way(s) have you been gifted for ministry? How have you used it to build up God's people? (or currently using...)
5. In v 11 Paul talks about God giving the church people who teach/preach the Word. That's something that apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers all have in common. Who are some people you're thankful for because of their ability and willingness to explain what God's Word really means? (men or women, local or long-distance, face to face or media)
6. The result of good Bible teaching is that it equips God's people to minister well to one another. What ministry/ministries are you thankful for? (whether it's the ministry of one person or multiple people/teams as part of a larger organization) How does that ministry "build up the body of Christ?" (tip: share a time when you were especially encouraged by another believer)
7. The greatest gift God has given us is enabling us to become like Jesus right now instead of waiting until we get to heaven. (cf 4:13) In what way(s) are you more like Jesus today than you were 4-5 years ago? What about the people around you? What changes have you seen in them?
8. In v 14 Paul describes how God's Word protects us from deceptive teachings that lead us into destruction. What are some of those teachings/messages in our culture? How does God's Word confront those lies and lead us towards something better/life giving?
9. The last gift mentioned in vv 15-16 is the gift of experiencing spiritual maturity through the vehicle of Christian community. How has your small group helped you in your discipleship journey so far? How has God used this group/church to "speak the truth" but do so "in love?"