

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
1 Corinthians 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16

This Week's BIG IDEA: This week we take a slight detour from Corinthians into Ephesians 4 and the concept of "Ministries" alongside spiritual gifts. A few key questions arise within this discussion: Are these ministries meant to operate in the church today? How do we ensure we are benefitting from these ministries? How do we make space for the input of these ministries alongside all the noise of our media driven world?

Fixing our eyes on God.

Psalm 24

Psalm 121

Read through these psalms a number of times and allow the truth they contain to speak to your head and your heart. Use some of the phrases withing them to provoke a time of praise filled prayer.

Opening God's word.

Read together 1 Corinthians 12:27 -31 and Ephesians 4:11-16

- Which spiritual gifts would you associate with the ministries of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher?
- According to scripture what is the purpose of these ministries?
- What would you expect a church to look like if these ministries are active within it and around it?
- What has been your experience of these ministries and how have you seen them working effectively?
- What safeguards does scripture give us to release these ministries in a healthy way? (Some of these safeguards may have been mentioned in this week's sermon and you might find the following scriptures helpful:
 - o 1 Corinthians 3:4-9
 - o 1 Peter 5:1-6
 - o Acts 13:1-6

A Question to Discuss

We are surrounded by worldly influences and "voices". Not all of these are helpful and very few will be pointing us towards God and the truth of scripture. How do we help one another not to be shaped by these influences and voices?

Time to pray.

Missional prayer: Spend 5 minutes praying for those you know who do not yet know the love of God in their lives.

Pastoral Prayer: In our Wimbledon Venue recently a number of people shared about spiritual gifts that they are specifically pursuing in this season. Spend some time sharing about then gifts that you are "eagerly desiring". Pray for one another that you would move more freely in these gifts.

This is also a great opportunity to minister the gifts to one another as you pray for the challenges of life that you might be facing.