



## Unity

Discussion Guide | June 7th, 2020

Before you begin, please read read Ephesians 4:1-6 and John 17:20-23

1. Reflect on the last 2-3 weeks. How has the importance of the topic of unity been made clear?
2. What are 2-3 significant obstacles to unity? Why are these so dangerous, if left unchecked?
3. Why should churches be strong advocates for unity?
4. Why should churches be models of unity?
5. In Ephesians 4:3, Paul says to “*make every effort* to keep the unity of the Spirit.” How does this show the priority that pursuing unity should have?
6. All of John 17 is a prayer of Jesus – His longest recorded prayer in the Bible. It’s His last prayer, before His arrest and crucifixion. How does this larger context – seeing that Jesus prays for unity in one of His last recorded prayers – show the importance of unity?
7. Look closely at John 17:20-23. What does unity among believers result in, according to this passage?
8. What does a unified group of believers (and unity within the church) look like, in practical terms? (Think back to what you read in Ephesians 4:1-6. See also Philippians 2:1-4 and Acts 2:42-47.) Work together as a group to identify at least 5-6 important traits of a unified community.
9. Unity takes intentionality. What character traits AND practices (spend time on both of these) are essential for a unified community? Create a list of 6-8 ingredients of a unified community.
10. What steps can you take in the next week to grow in one of the areas you just mentioned (see previous question). What will it look like for you to apply this?
11. Challenge – Memorize Ephesians 4:3: “*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*”