



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Habits of a Church on Mission **Ephesians 4:1-13**

- **A Life Worthy of the Calling.** Paul urges us to live a life worthy of our calling, defined by humility, gentleness, and patience. Leadership in the Kingdom of God isn't about status or "climbing a ladder," but about maintaining the "unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." When you think of "leadership," do you tend to think of a title or a way of being? How does Paul's list of virtues (humility, gentleness, patience) challenge your definition of a leader? In what area of your life is it currently most difficult to "bear with others in love"?
- **The diversity of grace.** Paul notes that "to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." We aren't all called to do the same thing, but we are all given specific "gifts" to fill the universe with God's presence. Do you ever find yourself comparing your "portion" of grace or your specific gifts to someone else's? How does that comparison steal your joy in serving? How does the idea that Jesus "descended to the lower regions" to empower us change how you view your own "low" or mundane responsibilities?
- **Growing into maturity.** The goal of shared leadership is that we all reach "unity in the faith" and become "mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." We need each other to grow up. What would it look like for our church to be a place where everyone—not just a few—takes responsibility for the "fullness of Christ" in our community? What kind of leader do you resonate with for yourself (i.e. Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher)?

Practice: Sharing the Load

This week, identify one area where you have been trying to "go it alone." Whether it's a project at work, a burden at home, or a ministry at church, look for a way to invite someone else in. Where can you share your leadership gifts with others in the church or in the community?