

# eGroup Discussion Guide

September 20, 2020

## PRAY

Begin your time with an opening prayer. Choose someone from the group to pray for your time together. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who serves as our Teacher.

## OBSERVE

Read your selected passage out loud as a group. While the group reads, take note of any details, words, or phrases that stand out to you.

## SELECTED PASSAGES

**John 17:20-23:** 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

**Ephesians 4:1-6:** “1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

**Romans 15:5-7:** “5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In John 17:20-21, Jesus is praying and says, *“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one.”* Jesus also says in vs 23, *“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”* What was Jesus attempting to communicate through this prayer? Why was it important for Jesus’ listeners to hear this prayer? How would it have impacted their understanding of being a follower of Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus pray this prayer of unity? Why is unity so crucial for the Church? What happens to a Church that falls into disunity?
3. Paul says in Ephesians 4:3, *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* What does it look like practically for a Church to keep the unity? Does that mean that everyone must think and act the same? Does it mean that everyone’s preferences are fulfilled?

4. How is unity a testimony of God? Is it accurate to say that disunity destroys our testimony as followers of Jesus? How does this destruction look?
5. Paul prays, in Romans 15:5, "*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.*" If Paul is pointing followers of Jesus to have the same mind towards each other that Christ did, how did Christ see and treat others? What did that look like practically?
6. What can we learn and apply to our lives about the way Jesus treated others? What can we do this week to ensure or restore unity with others in our lives? What about in the Church?

### **MAIN IDEA**

In one to three sentences, summarize your main take-away from this lesson. You can write it down in the space provided or verbalize it to the group. Include anything that you would like to put into practice this week as an application.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Take time to pray as a group. Record any prayer requests in the space below.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Take a moment to plan the location of your next gathering. When will you begin? Will anyone need to prepare anything before, like a snack or refreshments? This is a good time to ask if anyone would be open to lead the next eGroup time or even just a portion of it, like prayer.

**When:**

**Where:**

**Prepare:**

**Leading:**