



## **EPHESIANS**

### LIVING AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

#### **SESSION 2: UNITY**

By showing both grace and mercy, Jesus created the opportunity for unity between God and humankind. As a reflection of that, our call is to demonstrate unity as well.

#### **VERSE**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - **Ephesians 2:8-9**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” - **Ephesians 4:3-6**

#### **TAKE AWAY**

To learn or be reminded of who we are as members of God’s family and how to live as followers of Jesus.

#### **PRE-VIDEO TABLE DISCUSSION** | 6:30 pm

Talk about a meaningful time when you were part of a team, and it felt like everyone was united. It could be sports, work, or even your family. How did that team achieve unity?

#### **PRAY** | 6:50 PM

*Heavenly Father, thank you that we are all seen as equals in your family through Christ. Help us to be united. Amen.*

## WATCH VIDEO | TAKE NOTES

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### **GROW** | Post Video Discussion

[1]. **REFLECT:** Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** aloud.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Q.** If followers of Jesus forget the truth represented in these verses, how could that contribute to a lack of unity?

- How could remembering the truth represented in these verses contribute to greater unity?

[2]. **REFLECT:** Read **Ephesians 4:3-6** aloud. In these verses, Paul summarizes his plea for unity among believers.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” - **Ephesians 4:3-6**

**Q.** In your own words, what do you think Paul’s main message was?

[3]. **REFLECT:** The video talks about a subtle but clear distinction between mercy and grace.

- **Mercy:** not receiving something bad you deserve.
- **Grace:** receiving something good you don’t deserve.

Throughout history, the penalty for sin has been some sort of death—an animal sacrifice to pay for the wrongdoing.

**Q.** Keeping that in mind, in what ways did we receive both mercy and grace because of the death and resurrection of Jesus?

[4]. **Q.** Who in your life could use your mercy right now?

- Is there anyone who could benefit by you withholding a consequence they might deserve?

[5]. **Q.** Who could use your grace right now?

- Is there anyone who could use an act of kindness and who has no reason to expect it from you?

**PRAY** | 7:55 pm

We suggest ending your group with prayer. One idea is to have each group member think of a way they could take a step toward unity rather than divisiveness and then pray silently for a minute or so. Then a leader can close in prayer.

**DISMISS** | 8:00 pm

Join us next week for **Ephesians - Session 3: Honor**

### **BEFORE NEXT TIME**

Read through the last three chapters of Ephesians before your next session.

In addition, try to memorize these passages:

“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

**Ephesians 3:17-18**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

**Ephesians 4:3**