

## **GROW UP**

### **Opening Announcements**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Q: When you think about "growing up", what is the process for that?

Q: What's been hard for you, in "growing up"? What's been great about "growing up"?

#### **Table Time...**

**READ: Ephesians 4:11-16** "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Q: According to verse 12, what is the role of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers? WHO is to "do the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"?

Q: According to verse 13, WHY should we be doing this?

Q: According to verse 14, what is one characteristic of being spiritually immature? How does earthly immaturity mirror or inform spiritual immaturity?

Q: As a parent/adult, what are the dangers of immaturity?

Q: What are the benefits?

Q: According to verse 13, WHO is the model...the goal...our aim in regards to spiritual maturity? Discuss your thoughts about that!

Q: In verse 16, we have a "picture" of "how" the Church is supposed to "work" (i.e. accomplish what God desires). What are the characteristics and why are they important?

Q: Why is there a temptation to leave "the work of ministry" to the "professionals"? What is the danger in that? Why is that less effective?

### **Big Groups Debrief....**

**READ: Ephesians 4:1-7** "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Q: What is Paul's "urging" us to do? Why is this important to "unity"?

Q: According to verse 3, what should we be "eager" to do? Why is this important? How does not dealing with issues appropriately, or denial or "kicking the can down the road" sabotage unity in the church?

Q: How does "growing up" help us "deal" with issues more effectively? What are the benefits? How does THAT relate to "developing relationships for life"?

**READ: John 17:20-23** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Q: In this prayer, what does Jesus pray for? Why is this important?

Q: In what ways have we seen this NOT happening and what are the results?

Q: In what ways HAVE we seen this happening and what are the results of that?

Q: According to verse 21, what is the result of true unity?

Q: Why is unity so difficult to see/experience/achieve?

Q: What are some things WE can be doing to promote, bring about, BIBLICAL unity?