

LifeGroup Discussion

June 30, 2019

Scripture: Ephesians 4: 1-3, 12-13

(Please note: there are seven prompts for this discussion)

1. Read the passage aloud slowly and clearly as the rest of the group sits in their best listening mode:

Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us. For He is our peace, who made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Ephesians 4: 1-3, 12-13

2. Ask each of those present to share what words, phrases, or ideas caught their attention during the reading.
3. Read the statement below and create a list of words that describe what a "mature Christian" looks like:

BIG (BIG) IDEA: On your list of goals, make sure this is way up toward the top: become a "mature" Christian.

4. Read the following definitions then discuss whether they fit current Christian community; if yes, why? If no, why not? If unsure, why?

Communitas - the sense of sharing and intimacy that develops among persons who experience liminality as a group.

Liminal space - liminal space is the time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' It is a place of transition, waiting; the space where we aren't what we were, but not yet what we will be.

5. Keep that discussion in mind as you read the following exhortation; make a list of ways the church succeeds at community and how it could be better:

BIG IDEA: Become a healthy and mature follower of Christ. A big part of this is your relationships with others. You ARE a Christian and you ARE part of ONE body, ONE Spirit, ONE hope, Lord, baptism, etc. And you have ONE Father. Now, TOGETHER, as ONE, set the common goal of becoming mature.

6. Consider the quote from Tim Keller below; keeping in mind your list of how to be better at community, discuss the importance of individual willingness to join in community and how that willingness develops:

Everyone says they want community and deep friendship. However, because it takes accountability and commitment, we run the other way.

7. Kim Bontrager shared some pretty transparent thoughts that can relate to community and gave permission for use in this discussion guide. Please take a few moments in silence to ponder her words and the feelings behind them. Write a short reflection that could become an invitation to others to come closer into community:

"To be honest, I didn't used to be open to going on a 'journey' with anyone else all up in my biz. But I've come to discover we're SO much better pursuing change together, cheering each other on." (from a post about the role of relationship in the success of life-choice changes. Used by permission.)