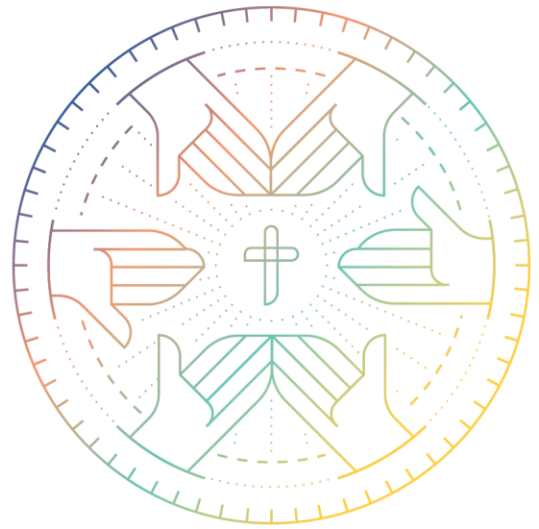


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What's an unusual skill you have and where did you learn it?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

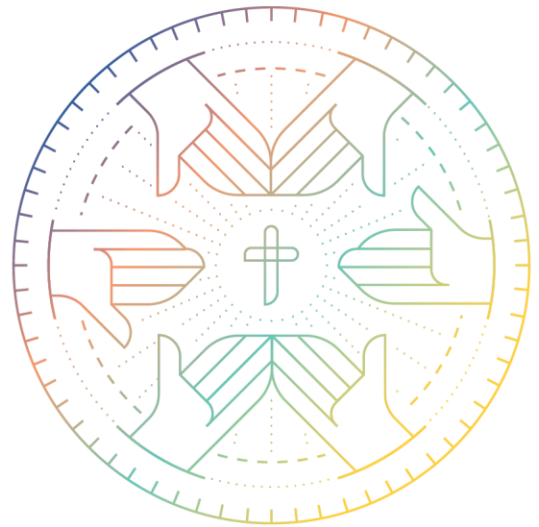
In the first half of Ephesians Paul focuses on doctrine. The second, half of his letter helps us understand how to apply it to our lives. Paul begins chapter 4 with a call for unity in the body of Christ and to walk in our giftings so that the Church may grow in maturity and love.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. Paul instructs the Ephesians to live a life worthy of their calling and then lists characteristics associated with that calling. They are:
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - Patience
 - Bearing with one another in love
 - Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peaceOf those listed, which one sticks out to you? Have you witnessed someone you know that displays one or all of the characteristics?
2. Read Ephesians 4:7-12 and Romans 12:3-8. According to these passages, what do you see as the importance of Spiritual Gifts?
3. Read Ephesians 4:11-14 and Romans 16:17-18. According to this passage, why is it important to build unity in the church and use the spiritual gifts that we have been given by God?

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Ephesians 4:4-6 Here, Paul stresses the importance of unity within the local church. What message does a fragmented church send to a skeptical world? What would it look like to be a source of unity for the local church?
2. Take a few moments to discuss the spiritual gifts listed.
3. Read Ephesians 4:15-16 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Paul speaks to the importance of love as we mature and use our giftings. Based on these passages what makes the presence of love so vital for the unity of the church?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, help us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling. Help us to walk in humility, gentleness, patience, and unity. May we seek to build the church as we work to attain the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Help us to be grounded in you growing into maturity that we might not be carried about by every wind of doctrine but instead help us to speak the truth in love. We acknowledge that you are the head of the church and in you, we are joined together. Help us to understand how you have gifted us so that we may be equipped to build each other up in love. In your wonderful and precious name, we pray. Amen.