

Small Group Discussion

Week 4



Chapter 4 – Life in the Church

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

Coaching Conversations:

Many times we as leaders think we need to have all the answers and be able to do everything by ourselves; however, discipleship is not done in isolation – it's a group effort! Within your group, reinforce the idea of unity by assigning prayer partners to pray for one another during the week. Prayer is a vital part of any ministry. Without the Lord's help we are powerless to change lives. As an intentional leader, you need to lead by modeling prayer for your group. Reserve time at the beginning and end of your group to be in prayer together. Also, make sure that you are not doing this alone either. Reach out to your staff contact and ask them to pray for you or for help if you need it. You can also reach out to other Multiply leaders! Since everyone in our church is going through Multiply together, talk with other leaders to hear how their groups are going. Encourage them and be encouraged, knowing that you're not in this alone.

Starting the Conversation:

As we transition into part-two, take a second to reflect back on how the Lord has used the study this far in the lives of your group members. Ask group members to share, "what has the Lord done in your heart over the past few weeks," or "what has hit you the most as we've started to dive into this material?"

Life Group Questions:

1. Why do you think the New Testament places such a priority on Christians being committed members (or parts) of local churches? How can this priority best be reflected in your life?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1–16. How should this passage affect the way you view your responsibility to other Christians in the church?
3. Think about your unique setting and identify a few opportunities that God has given you to minister to the people around you. Have you taken advantage of these opportunities?
4. Take a few minutes to meditate on Galatians 6:1–2. What would it look like to help bear someone else's burden? Is there anyone in your life right now whom you should be helping in this way?
5. Why do you think we tend to focus on the external circumstances and behavior when we try to help people change?
6. Discuss why it is essential to get to the heart of the problem rather than merely addressing the circumstances and behavior.

7. How should the truth of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit affect the way we approach helping people change?

8. Would you say that our church body is characterized more by defeat and isolation or the power and transformation of the Holy Spirit? Why do you say that?

10. Would you say that you have been playing your part in the body of Christ? If so, how might you still need to grow in this? If not, are you ready to get involved? What steps might you need to take?

Continuing the Conversation (optional):

- **Serving With Your Gifts:** Do you know how you are designed to serve the body? If not, a great way to learn is to start serving... ANYWHERE! You can also study the additional passages below to see what the Scriptures have to say about serving. Our church staff can help you find a good fit as well. Just ask! For a more in-depth look into spiritual gifts.

- **Diagnostic Questions** – Sometimes “bearing each other’s burdens” begins with asking the right questions. Use the Diagnostic Questions handout (found in the Additional Resources) as a discipleship resource to help build authenticity, to understand people’s burdens, and to know how to pray for others.

- **Additional Related Passages:** Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-28; Ephesians 2:10, 4:11- 16; 1 Peter 2:9-10, 4:10

- **Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:15-16

Prayer Assignment:

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to give you confidence in the Spirit’s power to use you in ministering to other people. Ask Him for the wisdom to know what to do and the discernment to recognize people who need help. Pray that God would use you and your church to continue His plan of redemption in your unique setting.