

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

Series: **“Growing in Christ”**

Message: **“Recognizing Our Jobs”**

**Ephesians 4:11-16 (p. NLT):** <sup>11</sup>Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup>Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup>This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup>Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup>He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

1. Read **Ephesians 4:11** above. In this verse, what five gifts does Paul say Christ gave to the church?

2. Read **Ephesians 4:12** above. What responsibility has God given to these five groups?

What job has God given to the congregation or the church?

3. Read **Ephesians 4:13** above. According to this verse, what will happen when the church begins to live this way?

4. Read **Ephesians 4:14** above. What negative aspects will disappear from the church when this stage is reached?

5. Read **Ephesians 4:15** above. What two powerful things will the church begin to do when this stage is reached?
  
6. Read **Ephesians 4:16** above. Why is it so important that we all do the work to which Jesus has called us?
  
7. What do you think would happen if Trinity and the other churches in our area became the type of church described in **Ephesians 4:13-16**?
  
8. What will you remember most about this message?

### Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 118:25-29** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. As you look at **Ps. 118:25**, how might this verse have differed had the psalmist already known the truth of Christ's finished work on the cross and through His resurrection?
  2. Can you think of a place in the New Testament where the words of **Ps. 118:26** appear? (Hint: Look up **John 12:13**.)
  3. How does the psalmist make **Ps. 118:28** his personal confession?
  4. Look at **Ps. 118:1** and **Ps. 118:29**. What do you notice about these two verses? The psalmist has used a literary device known as an *inclusio*. The purpose of using the same verse to begin and end the passage is to establish the overall theme of the passage. These are the primary truths the writer wants us to own from this passage.
- II. Next read **John 12:24-46**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **John 12:24**. What truth is Jesus revealing here about Himself?
  2. Have you come yet to that place in your life where you recognize dying to yourself is what will yield new life and fruit?
  3. When you read **John 12:25**, do you think Jesus meant we had to literally *hate our lives*? What is He asking us to lay down in this verse?
  4. When you read **John 12:26**, what things make you reluctant to fully follow Jesus where He wants us to go?
- III. Now read **Ephesians 4:11-16** utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Ephesians 4:11**. In this verse, what five gifts does Paul say Christ gave to the church?
  2. Read **Ephesians 4:12**. What responsibility has God given to these five groups?
  3. What job has God given to the congregation or the church?
  4. Read **Ephesians 4:13**. According to this verse, what will happen when the church begins to live this way?
  5. Read **Ephesians 4:14**. What negative aspects will disappear from the church when this stage is reached?

6. Read **Ephesians 4:15**. What two powerful things will the church begin to do when this stage is reached?
7. Read **Ephesians 4:16**. Why is it so important that we all do the work to which Jesus has called us?
8. What do you think would happen if Trinity and the other churches in our area became the type of church described in **Ephesians 4:13-16**?