

EPHESIANS: EQUIPPED FOR WHAT?

Week 2

BIG IDEA

As a child of God we have everything we need to live a wholehearted, fruitful and meaningful life as Christ-followers. We all have our own gifts and talents which have been given to us by God's grace. However, those gifts and talents need to be sharpened and worked on so that they mature and can be used effectively. The church plays a big part in equipping Christ Followers to do its great work in the world. Through the church, people can be equipped in many different areas of life such as spiritual, emotional and relational. When the church rallies together to equip one another with their God-given gifts, the whole church grows stronger and healthier.

Ephesians 4:11-15 NLT

¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³This 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.

¹⁴Then 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. ¹⁵Instead, 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.

Judges 6:11-16 NLT

¹¹Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. ¹²The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

¹³"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

¹⁴Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

¹⁵“But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

¹⁶The LORD said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

Ephesians 1:3-10 ESV

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing from the weekend’s message that spoke to you?
2. Read Ephesians 4:11-15 NLT. Do you believe that you have a gift or talent that could benefit the church community? Have you used your gift to encourage or equip someone else? If not, what has held you back?
3. We need to continuously grow and work to develop what God has given us. This can be a painful and exhausting journey but we have the church community to help us. What is one thing you know God has given you that you have not done your best in developing?
4. Read Judges 6:11-16 NLT. Many of us can identify with Gideon when he responded to God’s challenge with “But Lord..” (v.15). What has been your “But Lord...” experience? Share with your group an area in your life where you have responded like Gideon.
5. Gideon hid in a hole doing a routine task, feeling discouraged about life, and not being able to see God in his situation. Have you been in a similar situation? How has being in church community helped you to “get out of the hole”?

End the meeting with a prayer for members of your group to be bold and courageous to trust God in their journey.