



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Healthy relationships begin with you.

HEAD CHANGE: Stop expecting something from people that you are not maturing in yourself.

HEART CHANGE: Carry the name of Jesus AND the character of Jesus.

LIFE CHANGE: Come to the end of "self".

OVERVIEW

Jesus' vision for the church is a people united under Him. It cannot be overstated the mission of Jesus to unite the people of God in healthy relationship. But that is no easy task, and it requires something of you. In fact, healthy relationships begin with you. Do not confuse healthy with convenient. Do not confuse healthy with easy. Healthy relationships require a healthy amount of work. But the good news is that Jesus, if you will allow Him, wants to lead you in this work. For many of us, Jesus has influenced an occasional time slot on Sunday mornings but has little influence on the character of our lives. So, maybe it is time we stop expecting something from Gods people that we are not maturing in ourselves.

"Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace"

-Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are 2-3 people that have influenced your relationship with Jesus the most? What characteristics come to mind when you think of them?
2. What stood out to you the most in this teaching? How does that apply to your life today?
3. Can you describe a recent time when you realized your expectation of others was greater than your emotional maturity as modeled to others?
4. How would you answer, "Would the church be better if everyone followed Jesus like me?" What is one positive and one critical way you would answer that question?
5. What does it mean to you to come to the "absolute end of 'self'"? Discuss that as group.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I ask that you show me the character of Jesus more clearly so that I may live in awe of Him. Show me your love in an overwhelmingly apparent way as I seek to know you more closely. Bring awareness of and healing to any wounds in my past that hinder me from growing in my present relationships. Help me to be aware of the areas of my character that you are growing and sharpening within me. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!