

Family Worship Guide – Week 3

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 4:4-6 – There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

READ

Read Ephesians 4:1-6.

God's passion for the unity of his church rings clear in the book of Ephesians. This unity is to show itself in the church in many ways. We as a church should live in light of God's work for us and in us with humility, gentleness, patience, and love toward each other. We are to work to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We are to do this because we are one, and God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is one. Living out this oneness brings great glory to God and demonstrates to the world that Jesus is the Christ, and leads them to put their faith in him. The glory of God is seen and the mission of the church is advanced through unity, harmony and oneness in the body of Christ.

Questions:

Why is unity among Christ-followers important?

What unites us together as the church?

How have you seen disunity among God's people?

In what ways can you contribute to the unity of the church?

Bottom Line: Christ-followers are to live in unity because the Father has graciously called us together through faith in his Son, Jesus Christ, and given us his Spirit.

SING

In light of these truths that God has revealed to us through his word, may our hearts be encouraged and compelled to praise God for giving us his Son to die for our sins and rise victoriously from the grave. As we've learned in previous weeks, it is not by family heritage, self-righteousness or worldly success that we are saved. We have all gone astray from the Lord and are all adopted into his eternal family as sons and daughters through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us love each other as Christ has loved us and let the words of Paul, in Ephesians 4, resound in our hearts that we would be 'eager to maintain unity' within this family that we all, by God grace alone, have been adopted into.

This week our family worship song is 'We Are the Body'. Let's continue to worship together, embracing all that God has called us to be and all that he has called us to do for the glory of his name in all the earth!

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin grab one of your child's puzzles, mix up the pieces and open your Bible to Ephesians 4:1-6. Read the scripture to your preschooler.
- Now, ask your preschooler to put together the puzzle as fast as possible while you are timing him.
- Repeat the task, but this time help your child complete the puzzle. Afterwards, explain to your child that you are quicker and work together better as a team.
- Now explain that just like you worked together to assemble the puzzle, we are powerful when we work together to help the people around us know about Jesus.
- Tell your child that God wants all of us who know Jesus and how he was sent to save us, to work together to tell others about him. God wants all nations to hear about his love too. When we tell others about Jesus we are doing what God wants us to do.
- Conclude by praying that God will help you share his message about Jesus to others.

Children

- Read Ephesians 4:4-6 aloud to your children.
- Ask them to list the things Paul says that Christians share with one another or have in common in these verses: common calling, one hope, serve the same Lord, participate in the same faith and the same baptism, serve the same God and Father.
- Help your children understand that the natural path for followers of Jesus to walk in is unity. The following situation illustrates what happens when the opposite occurs. Discuss this as a family.
- Imagine a sports team in which many of the players begin to work against one another. Instead of working together to defeat their opponents, they are sidetracked during games arguing with each other. Instead of spending time of the practice field, they use their valuable practice sessions to speak negatively about one another. This would be crazy! Why would a team do this? What would happen if they did?
- Just as unreasonable as it is to think of team members working against one another, it makes no sense for followers of Jesus to walk in discord with one another. They have been rescued by the same Savior into the same family of God and called to the same mission.
- Pray as a family that God would continue to bring unity to your faith family and use each member of the family to promote greater and greater unity.

Students

- How does unity within the church demonstrate to non-believers that Jesus is Lord? Conversely, how does disunity within the church bring harm to the name of Christ?
- Why is it impossible for a believer to live apart from the unity of the church? Consider Eph. 2:18-22 and 4:4-6. How do both your personal obedience and your personal sin affect the body of Christ?
- Read Ephesians 4:13-16. What does unity produce in the life of the church? Why are these things so critical for believers?
- What are sources of division that attack the church? Consider things like musical preferences, doctrinal differences, personality conflicts, personal sin, etc. Read Ephesians 4:20-32. In what specific ways are we commanded to defend and preserve unity? Which commands do you struggle with more frequently?

