

Scripture and Background Information for November 10-16

Made for More

During this series, we are looking through the book of Ephesians. We'll discover that although our childhood desire to be significant or important may have been misplaced, it was never intended to be *replaced*. Far from just the immature dream of a childlike mind, your Life, purpose, and significance may be *bigger* and *nearer* than you ever dreamed.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page.

Remember to pick up your updated **Discussion Guide**, an adaptation of the original format. The adaptation includes special instructions if the passage is 10 verses or longer. In the **GOD'S WORDS** section, you will be copying the scripture "word for word". In the **MY WORDS** section, you will be paraphrasing the scripture in your own words. You can pick up copies of the new version in the Next Steps Center or from your leader.

Background for Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are indescribably rich in Jesus Christ but are not realizing their full potential in Christ. In many ways, they are living in spiritual poverty when they have the ability to live as those with amazing wealth. Paul describes this small church's wealth by reminding them of their adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, life, grace, citizenship, and every spiritual blessing. As Paul describes these benefits given to the believer, he instructs them in how to live out their full potential.

In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul reminds the Ephesians of the purpose of gifts from Christ. To those who believe, Jesus has given gifts. These gifts should be used to serve the body of Christ. As individual members of the body serve, the body grows and matures according to Christ's proper design.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

November 17

Ephesians 5:1-2, 14-17

November 24

Ephesians 6:10-12, 18-20

BONUS! On page two, we are providing a tool for practically engaging the truths presented in the scriptures. Please use this tool yourself, and we encourage you to discuss it with your Community Group.

MADE for MORE

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors [shepherds] and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

These 5 words represent different styles of influence that are present in a healthy church. Which of these styles is most like you? Talk with your friends and community group about your own style, and about how their styles are complementary to yours. How can your different influence styles be useful as you think of ways to serve together?

APOSTOLIC

adaptable pioneer
dynamic innovator
visionary explorer
ground-breaker
strategist mapmaker
agent of change architect

PROPHETIC

principled justice-minded
corrector advocate
passionate reformer
questioning loyalist
cause-driven challenging
truth-teller

EVANGELISTIC

mobilizer includer
communicator catalyzing
people-gatherer
recruiter enthusiastic
inviter grace-giver
connector motivator

SHEPHERDING

care-giver soul-healer
peace-maker unifier
reconciler protector
loyalist
tender-hearted nurturing

TEACHING

guide organizer curious truth-curator
philosopher
historian systematizer
wise
legacy-minded grounded
knowledgable

