

a new way to **LIVE**

SERVE, Ephesians 4:7–16 February 3, 2019

CONNECT

1. Ephesians 4:7–16 tells us it pleases God to give the gift of certain people to the church—“apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry” (v. 11–12). Take time with friends or family to celebrate those who God has used in your life to help you become more like Jesus. Who are they, what stood out about them and how did they point you to Christ?

CELEBRATE

2. In Ephesians 4:8, Paul references Psalm 68:18 which finds King David affirming a great victory God has over His enemies—a victory marked by the adulation of the peoples (“receiving gifts among men”). This gives beautiful hints toward the victory of Jesus over sin and death—a victory from which Christ then gives gifts to the peoples. With this in mind, read Hebrews 2:5–18. Process with your group how Jesus attained victory and what the results of this victory are for us who believe.
3. Like a victorious king, Jesus presents good gifts “to each one of us.” Consider Romans 12:3–8, 1 Corinthians 12:1–31 and 1 Peter 4:7–11. In your own words, how would you define a “spiritual gift?” Which ones do you have? Carefully read the last part of 1 Peter 4:11. What does this say about the purpose of the gifts God has given us?
4. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that some “gifts” Jesus gave to the church were actually people. What did Pastor Matthew suggest each item in verse 11 meant? How might these people “equip the saints” (v. 12)?
5. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the goal of the people mentioned in verse 11 is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (v. 12). It is evident that the burden of ministry is then shared broadly. What might this imply for you? Consider how verses 13–16 serve as a key end-goal of this burden. Talk about the implications of this.

CONTRIBUTE

6. In summary, we expect the people in verse 11 to equip us to enjoy discernment, unity and love that reflect maturity in Christ. Though 1 Corinthians 13 is commonly used for weddings, it is actually a passage about how to function as the body of Christ. Read it carefully and talk about how you can more thoughtfully have Jesus’ love for you be manifest in your daily living as an expression of Christian maturity.