



SDG Discussion Guide

Ephesians 4:1-16

October 7, 2018

For starters:

When you have had a bad day, what do you do?

Are you the kind of person who sees the glass half-empty or half-full?

Do you have a pet peeve and if so, what is it?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Of the qualities listed in verse 2, which did you demonstrate the best lately? The worst?
2. What is God's purpose in giving gifts to his people? Why is it important that each part of "the body" does its work?
3. What does it mean to speak the "truth in love" (v 15)? How is this different than just speaking the truth?
4. According to this passage, what's the problem with trying to live the Christian life apart from the church? In what ways do you need others?
5. How are you doing at fulfilling your call to "keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (v 3)?
6. How do you understand what it means for you to live up to "the calling you have received"? In your work? Your home? Your relationships?
7. Of the four jobs Paul describes for a team, which job would you choose: apostle (pioneer and church planter), prophet (motivator and encourager), evangelist (soul winner) or pastor/teacher (trainer and coach)? How can you develop this gift?
8. Are you more likely to "speak the truth" or "in love" try to keep the peace at any price? To achieve a balance, what do you need to learn?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Pray, how can your small group be deliberate to help you address any obstacles or challenges that may be preventing you from maturing in your faith? Pray that you will be an encouragement to one another. Be alert to God's answer to your prayer.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).