

Unity in the Family

Group Discussion Guide

Ask

What are our experiences of unity in the family?

- Share an experience of unity in the family
- Have you ever witnessed disunity in the family?

Approach

How does the Bible address unity and disunity?

- Reflect on the story of Ruth
 - How did Ruth and Naomi achieve unity?
 - What lessons can we learn from this family?
- Think of the story of Joseph
 - List some of the causes of disunity in this family?
 - What was the consequence of this conflict?
 - How did they overcome it?
 - What lessons can we learn?

Analyse

What principles for unity does our lesson focus on this week?

- Read Ephesians 2.1-11
 - What illustration does Paul use to describe the new unity that exists between peoples in Christ?
 - How has Christ made 'one' out of 'two'?
 - What practical changes does Christ bring into our lives that enable us to experience the oneness and unity we have been promised?
- Read John 12.21-23 and 1 Thessalonians 3.12
 - Why do you think Christ emphasised unity so frequently in His teachings?
 - How can we use our knowledge of the love of God to enhance our relationships with others?

- Read Philippians 2.3-5 and 1 John 3.16-18
 - What do these texts tell us about a life of selflessness?
- Read Ephesians 5.22-6.9
 - What are the three pairs of relationships addressed in this passage?
 - What counsel does Paul have regarding humility and service in relationships?
 - What is his remedy for selfishness?
 - What is the meaning of the word submit or submission?
 - How should we understand this word in a Christian context?
 - How can this principle be abused?
 - Why do you think Paul consistently speaks first to those who are socially weaker in the culture, namely wives, children and slaves?

Assess

How do we apply these principles to our families, churches and communities?

- What is the best way to get self out of the centre of life?
- How can we be more intentional about representing the image of God regularly in our home life, churches, and communities?
- What concrete actions can you take to help foster unity in your home and in the community where you dwell?
- What are some ways that we can apply the concept of unity in diversity?
- When we find ourselves in the middle of a conflict, what are some Biblical strategies that we can practice in order to overcome it?
- How do we deal with those who are found destroying unity by their actions and words?

Apply

How will this lesson make a difference in your life?

- Are there any situations in your life, family or church where you need improved unity?
 - Share it (if appropriate)
 - Pray for each other