



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 1 WEEK 5

8 March 2018

Life in the Body

‘Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.’

Ephesians 4: 3 (NIV)

Icebreaker

If someone were to make a documentary about your life, what would be your favourite scene? Share with the group.

Introduction

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 out loud. This section deals with unity and diversity in the Body of Christ. Paul calls us to express Christian unity through sound relationships which promote peace. There is one Christian family, one faith, hope, and baptism because there is one Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, unity in the Body does not mean sameness or uniformity. The diversity of the spiritual gifts given to each member enriches Christian unity. In particular, Paul mentions the ministries of apostle, evangelist, prophet, pastor, and teacher. The aim of the gifts is to equip God’s people to build up the Body to reach maturity and stability.

Discussion

- Paul points out five characteristics which we should demonstrate to promote peace in the Body: humility, gentleness, tolerance, patience, and love (verses 1-3). Which of these present the greatest challenge to you? Share what you might do to strengthen the bond of peace in your life group, at HCC, and with people from other church communities.
- Christian unity is not something we produce. Discuss how the Father, the Son, and the Spirit each contribute to our experience of Christian unity (verses 3-6).
- What spiritual gifts do you think you have received? Allow the group to give input as you reflect on your gifts. How can you use your gifts to equip members in your life group or HCC for service?

- What do verses 13-16 teach us about the characteristics of spiritual maturity and immaturity? How can we grow to become more mature?

Prayer

- Thank the Father, Son, and Spirit for providing the basis of our unity. Ask forgiveness for where we have allowed personal issues to come in the way of our unity and ask for grace to walk in love with all believers, especially those in other church communities that differ from HCC.
- Pray for greater unity in your life group, in HCC, and among the different Christian communities in Pretoria.
- Pray in pairs. Thank the Lord for the spiritual gift which each person has received and pray for the optimal development of this gift from Christ to build up the Body.