

Digging Deeper During the Week!

Since life is so hard, God has provided us with a support group! Each week we can gain strength and encouragement from this group of people who love us and want the best for us. *All we have to do is faithfully attend a small group in order to experience the fullness of God's love!*

Monday **A Body of Graceful Givers!** 18-Feb Romans 12.3-6

In order to meet the needs of His body, the local church, God has placed special abilities inside each of His children so that they can help others.

- Each ability is a gift called 'grace.' Grace means receiving something we do not deserve. What is the attitude we are to possess as a result of God's gifting of us (3)?
- Since we all have differing grace gifts, we must take responsibility to use them. What will this mean in your life as you seek to use the gift God has given you in your small group? How will this happen?

Tuesday **A Body That Compassionately Cares!** 19-Feb 1 Corinthians 12.12-26

No where is the love of God more able to be felt than in a small group. Here, where everyone knows the needs of one another, we are able to care for and love on them with the compassion of Jesus!

- Why are we motivated to help and care for others (12-14)? What is the pernicious lie that will block the love of God in our midst (21)?
- If we are going to truly function in God's love, what attitude will we have to take in order to experience God's love (22)? How are supposed to treat the other members of our small group (23-26)?

Wednesday **A Body of Diverse Peoples!** 20-Feb Ephesians 3.1-7

God is so gracious that He has no desire for anyone to be lost or left out of His amazing love! We have the great privilege of sharing that love with all peoples – of all nations and languages – in our small group.

- Since grace opens the door to all nationalities, what should our small group look like if we are truly people of grace? Whenever possible what will the nationality of the people of God look like when gathered, according to this passage?

- God's grace demonstrates the power of the Holy Spirit in our small group as we accept people of all races and languages as recipients of His love. What are the three gifts we are given in Christ (6)? How does that create unity in the midst of our apparent diversity?

Thursday **A Body of Intentional Unity!** 21-Feb Ephesians 4.1-6

Unity amidst such diversity is often difficult to maintain when we are in the flesh and acting like mere humans.

- How are to walk in faith (1)? What does that mean (2-3)?
- Since there is 'no where to go' because Jesus has only one family, what should be our actions to those in our local church (4-6)?

Friday **A Body of Dependent Growth!** 22-Feb Ephesians 4.11-16

God wants His body – the local church – to grow! He has a specific plan to make that happen, which He shares with us in today's text.

- God has given each person in the local church a special set of spiritual life coaches (11-12). What are their titles? What are their goals for our lives?
- When the coach has been successful, there are a number of changes that have occurred in our lives (13-16). What are they and what effects would that have on both our small groups and on our local church?

Saturday **A Body of Directed Purpose!** 23-Feb Colossians 1.9-18

When all is said and done, the purposes of faith are simple to understand. This passage helps us clarify our pursuits and evaluate our progress toward the intended purposes of God!

- Paul's prayer here is directed at several specific targets for the people of God in this local church of Colossae. What are those prayer targets (9-12)? When these are real in one's life, what can we say about that person with great authority (13-14)?
- Jesus Christ is the center of the God-follower's life. What makes Jesus so special, according to this passage (15-16)? What is His proper place in every aspect of our lives (17-18)?

"I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13 (NLT)

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