

May 3 Discussion Questions

“Grace-Filled Relationships”

Ephesians 4:1-16, 25-32

Review

Three Commitments in our Relationships:

1. Connect **Compassionately** (v. 1-2,32)
 - As those who have been infinitely loved (Eph. 1:3-7)
2. Forgive **Freely** (v. 32)
 - As those who have been completely forgiven (Eph. 2:1-10)
3. Pursue **Progress** (v. 11-12,29)
 - As those who have been declared righteous (Eph. 3:19)

Connect

1. What qualities make for a good friend? Share an example of when a friend loved you in a meaningful way.
2. In what ways do Christians approach relationships differently than non-Christians?

Read Ephesians 4:1-16, 25-32

Discuss

3. What is the “therefore” referring to in v.1? How is Paul changing the emphasis of his communication?
4. What does it mean to “apply the Gospel?” What does it mean to “apply the Gospel” specifically to relationships?
5. In what ways are the relationship qualities mentioned in v.2-3 exhibited in the life of Jesus? Which one do you most need to cultivate more of in your life?
6. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 6:14-15. Why is forgiving others so hard? Why is it so important for a Christian? If you can’t forgive someone, what does that say about your heart?
7. What is the goal to which Christians have been called in v.12-13? Using the context, how does this goal get accomplished?
8. How does having a program, a coach, and a team benefit your development as a Christian? Share from your experience.

Apply

9. What do you most need to develop your spiritual life: a program, a coach, or a team? How can your community group help you in that process?
10. Who are you developing spiritually? Is there anyone new God is placing on your heart to reach out to?
11. It's easier in this season to let relationships hang in limbo. What relationship do you need to develop this week? What is your hope for the conversation?
12. Do you have an example you can share of Christ's forgiveness miraculously working through you to forgive someone?
13. How would you rate your level of freedom in forgiving others? Would they rate you the same? Is there a relationship that needs your clear communication in order to clear the air?

Pray

14. Pray for God to help us apply the Gospel specifically to relationships this week. Pray that we each would know the necessary next step God is calling us to make in our relationships.

Weekly Prayer Focus from Prayer Team

Personal: Pray for ways you can build up the body and promote unity in the Oakwood family. *Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* Ephesians 4: 2-3

Ministry: Pray for our Community Group leaders as they continue to shepherd their groups during this pandemic crisis.

The "How can I pray for you?" Challenge

The challenge for each person in your community group for the next two weeks is to ask this question to at least one person. I have found many of my neighbors are outside during this season. I often ask them how they are doing and what they think of this pandemic. I asked one of them a few days ago how I could be praying for them. You could also text a friend or coworker the question. It could even be some entirely random at the grocery store! The second challenge would be to ask permission to pray with them for that very thing right there!

How can I implement this in my group?

The goal is for you to pose the question to your groups this week. Encourage your group by text midweek to remember the challenge! Then follow up for the next two weeks during your meeting time to discuss how the challenge went. You can ask these questions:

1. *Who did you ask the question to?*
2. *What did they ask prayer for?*
3. *Were you able to pray with them right then?*
4. *Do you sense they are open to the gospel?*
5. *Do you intend to continue the spiritual conversation? How so?*
6. *If you didn't ask the question to someone, why was this the case?*