

Strong and Courageous...Intentionally!
Text: Ephesians 4: 11-16
September 30, 2023

Big Idea: Jesus' blueprint for building His Church is intentional discipleship.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Intentional discipleship means intentional...

Point 1: EQUIPPING IN God's Word (vv. 11-12)

Question: Jesus builds His Church through His Word. Will you receive His equipping?

Question #5

- a) What is the purpose of Jesus giving spiritual leaders to the Church?
- b) What does it mean to be 'equipped' for the work of the ministry?
- c) How does the Word of God equip us to be faithful in the good works He has for us?
- d) What are some hindrances to receiving Christ's equipping through His Word?
- e) What hindrances do you struggle the most with? Why those ones?

Point 2: LIVING OUT God's Word (vv. 13-16)

Question: The goal of intentional discipleship is Christlikeness. Is He your priority?

Living out the Word...

a) Christlike MATURITY (v. 13)

Question #7

- a) What does full maturity look like?
- b) Why is doctrinal & relational unity essential if we are to grow to maturity in Christ?

b) Christlike STABILITY (v. 14)

Question #8

- a) What is the result of a lack of maturing stability individually and for the church?
- b) Looking at the life of Jesus, what are some fruits of Christlike stability? Use verses to support.

c) Christlike WITNESS (v. 15)

Question #9

- a) Looking at the life of Jesus, describe how He spoke the truth in love to others. Share verses.
- b) What are some results that happen when we don't speak the truth in love to one another?
- c) What situation(s) do you find it most difficult to do this in? Why?

d) Christlike SERVICE (v. 16)

Question #10

- a) Looking at the life of Jesus, describe what a mature life of service looks like. Share verses.
- b) How does the gospel empower & equip us to grow in Christlike maturity?
- c) What next step(s) can you take to use your gifts in seeing the Church built up?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) REVERENCE before God: Jesus, you are_____.
- b) HUMILITY before God: Confess & repent of areas that are hindering your maturity in Christ.
- c) THANKSGIVING to God: Jesus, thank You for how you are building Your church by_____.
- d) SUPPLICATION to God: Jesus, please build Your Church through_____.

Memory Verse:

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”-Ephesians 4:15