

### **WEEK ONE**

# **Build Every Member**

# **Ephesians 4:11-16**

#### Overview

Christ gives equipping leaders so every member does the work of ministry. As each part speaks truth in love and plays its part, the whole body grows up into Christ - stable, united, mature.

### **Discussion Starters**

- When have you felt most equipped to serve others? What made the difference?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

## Read Ephesians 4:11–16

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

# Dig In

1. Who gives these people-gifts and what are they (v11)?

*Leader notes:* The risen Christ gives apostles/prophets/evangelists/pastor-teachers as people whose role is to equip, not to replace, the saints' ministry.

## 2. What is the purpose of these leaders (v12)?

*Leader notes:* To equip the saints for the work of ministry, which results in building up the body—service is shared by every member.

## 3. What's the maturity target (v13)?

*Leader notes:* Unity in faith/knowledge of the Son, maturity measured by the fullness of Christ—a corporate Christlikeness.

## 4. What danger is avoided (v14)?

*Leader notes:* Immaturity leaves us tossed by waves and deceived by false teaching; equipping grows discernment and stability.

## 5. How does "speaking the truth in love" grow the church (v15)?

*Leader notes:* Truth without love hardens; love without truth softens; truth-in-love matures us into Christ, our head.

## 6. According to v16, how does every member contribute?

*Leader notes:* From Christ the body is joined; each part working properly makes the body grow—no spectators.

### 7. Where do you see Bring • Build • Send here?

*Leader notes:* Build through equipping; Bring as truth-in-love speaks the gospel; Send as each part functions beyond Sundays.

## Transformation (Rubber Hits the Road)

- What is one way you can lean into being equipped (training, mentoring, ministry buddy) this month, as individuals and/or as a small group together?
- What is one concrete place you can use your gift to build the body this week?
- Pray for our church members and leaders to "speak truth in love" into our world, when it is easy and when it is hard.

### **WEEK TWO**

# **Bring the Gospel**

## **Romans 10:9-17**

## Overview

Salvation flows from confessing Jesus is Lord and believing God raised him. But people can't believe what they haven't heard; so God sends messengers. Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.

## **Discussion Starters**

- When did someone's words about Jesus land for you? Why that moment?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

## Read Romans 10:9-17

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." <sup>13</sup>

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?<sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" <sup>[]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" <sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

## Dig In

1. What is Paul's core claim in vv.9-10?

*Leader notes:* Confession (public allegiance) and heart-belief (resurrection faith) mark salvation; Lordship and resurrection are central.

2. How does Deut 30 imagery in vv.6–8 show the gospel's accessibility?

*Leader notes:* The "word is near you... in your mouth and heart"—no heroic ascent/abyss; Christ has come; gospel is near, clear, speakable.

3. How do vv.11–13 underline the scope of grace?

*Leader notes:* "Everyone who believes... everyone who calls"—no distinction; **Jew/Gentile** alike share **one Lord** rich to all.

- 4. Trace Paul's chain in vv14–15. What must happen for someone to call on the Lord? Leader notes: Sent → preach → hear → believe → call. Mission starts with sending.
- 5. How does Isaiah's 'beautiful feet' image shape our culture (v.15; Isa 52)?

  Leader notes: Good news announced creates joy; messengers are beautiful because they carry peace/kingdom salvation.
- 6. What does v17 teach about evangelism in church life?

*Leader notes:* Hearing Christ's word generates faith; prioritize clear gospel words in gatherings, groups, and everyday conversation.

7. Where's Bring • Build • Send in this passage?

*Leader notes:* Send messengers; Bring through hearing and believing; Build believers who confess Jesus publicly and keep speaking.

## Transformation

- Write down two people you'll pray for and seek to speak with before Christmas you might want to share them with the group so others can pray for them and ask how you are going.
- Practise a 2-minute testimony (Who I was/Jesus' work/Life now). Share it in the group.
- Pray together for eyes to see where God is sending you with His good news (schools, clubs, neighbours) and for bold, beautiful feet to deliver that message.

## **WEEK THREE**

# **Send with every opportunity**

## 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

## Overview

Christ's love compels us: he died and was raised so we no longer live for ourselves. In him we are new creation, entrusted with the ministry and message of reconciliation. We are ambassadors through whom God appeals.

## **Discussion Starters**

- When has love (not guilt) most moved you to serve or speak?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

## Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: <sup>18</sup> The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>™</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Dig In

1. What compels Paul (v.14) and why?

*Leader notes:* Christ's love—displayed at the cross; "one died for all, therefore all died": union with Christ changes purpose.

# 2. What shift of purpose follows (v.15)? How does that different purpose play out in our lives?

*Leader notes:* No longer for self but for him—gospel re-orients daily decisions, time, money, words.

### 3. What does "new creation" mean in v.17?

*Leader notes:* In Christ we participate in the inbreaking future; new identity, new community, new mission.

### 4. Define the 'ministry of reconciliation' (vv.18–19).

*Leader notes:* God reconciled us to himself in Christ and gave us the ministry; message: God not counting trespasses against people.

### 5. How is v.21 the heart of the message?

*Leader notes:* Substitution: the sinless one made sin for us so we become God's righteousness - basis for reconciliation.

## 6. What is an ambassador and how is that our role (v.20)?

*Leader notes:* Official representative in a foreign land; God makes his appeal through us relational, persuasive, entrusted.

#### 7. Where's Bring • Build • Send here?

*Leader notes:* Send as ambassadors; Bring by pleading "be reconciled to God"; Build by forming a reconciled, righteous community.

### **Transformation**

- Think of one relationship you are in that needs gospel-shaped reconciliation; write down what you think might be a next step towards that reconciliation.
- Pray for 'ambassador' moments this week moments where you can share the love of God in the Gospel (who, where, when).
- As a group, how could you work together to share the good news with people God has put you in contact with over the Christmas/New Year period?

