



EPHESIANS 4:7-16

"PLAY YOUR PART"

OCTOBER 19, 2025

SUMMARY

Pastor Jeff reminded us that "You are God's plan to grow the church." That is because, like superheroes are given gifts that inspire ordinary people to rise to life's challenges, God gives us gifts that equip us for a unique role in God's mission for the church and empower us to live extraordinary lives of significance.

Specifically, in this week's passage we see that every Christian has been entrusted with spiritual abilities and responsibilities designed by God Himself to glorify him, bless others, and build the community of his new people. There are no exceptions; no one in the body of Christ is ungifted - all are given gifts, and all play an important role.

In the text, Paul paints a powerful picture of Christ who descended to the lowest place and then ascended in triumph, pouring out gifts on His people as a victorious King. These gifts take many forms, but Paul highlights leaders like apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers who equip the saints. They don't do all the ministry, but instead prepare everyone to serve. Church is not a few important people at the top supported by those below; it is a few particular kinds of gifted servant-leaders empowering everyone to use their gifts to build up the entire Church. Ministry is everyone's calling.

Pastor Jeff encouraged us that when each believer uses their gifts faithfully, the church functions as a healthy body where every part works together. The sound is like a beautiful and harmonious choir or worship team - each member plays their part at the right time, in the right way, towards the same goal.

Ultimately, God gifts His people so that we reflect the glory of Jesus and grow his church. The goal is not just activity or growth in numbers, but for each of us to be spiritually mature and grow into Christlike maturity. When we understand that we are saved by grace and gifted by grace, our service becomes an act of joyful gratitude. The church becomes a supernatural community of people living above the ordinary - each one empowered to be like a superhero for the body of Christ.

As a group, let's unpack this text and remember that we are not spectators; we are an important part of the plan...and we must play our part.

DISCUSSION

Expand Our Awareness

- We all have stories of superheroes that capture our hearts and imagination. What stories or characters speak deeply to you? Why do those stories resonate so deeply?
- We love stories of heroic adventure and overcoming adversity, but we can forget that our calling in Christ is just as amazing and significant. What makes it hard (or what helps you) to see your life as part of something larger?
- How does the eternal perspective of Christ's rescue and your calling to follow him shape your daily life?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Ephesians 4:7-16

- What stands out to you?
- What does the knowledge that God gives gifts of purpose to his people tell us about the character of our God?
- How does it change your perspective to hear that YOU – not someone else, but you personally – are God's plan to grow His church?
- How does Paul's picture of the church as a "body" help us understand how our different gifts work together to accomplish our mission to grow the church?

In verses 11-12, Paul lists specific leadership roles in the church that exist to equip the saints.

- How does this reshape how we think about leaders' role or function and the body members' roles?

Experience Transformation

- What are some ways Christians are tempted to "spectate" instead of "play their part" in the life of the church?
- For those not yet serving, is there an area of ministry where you've hesitated to use your gifts, and what holds you back? What is one step you could take to use your gifts to build the church?
- For those who are serving, how could you invite unengaged members to be trained/equipped?
- Who are the people building you up in your faith? Whom are you building up? How?



**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Ephesians 4:17-24