



Week Three - Purpose

CONNECT

- Who was the most influential person in your life? Why?
- What is your favorite sports team? Why?

WORD

Ephesians 4:11 -12

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

THOUGHT

After Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven. He gave some marching orders to his team. (Matthew 28:18-20). Years later a man named Paul was added to the team roster. His encouragement to the team players was simple: In order to do work, you have to be equipped. When being equipped it takes a person to "intentionally" train you.

DISCUSSION

1. Why does Paul highlight five specific gifts in the church? What is their significance?

2. In verse 12, Paul makes note that the responsibility of leaders is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church. What does this look like in the five specific gifts listed "to equip God's people"?

3. If Paul were a management consultant evaluating the body of Christ in our churches today, what would he say?

4. Why is it important that each of the five gifts work as one on the same team with God being our coach?

5. In what ways did Jesus exemplify all five gifts in His time on earth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- With your small group discuss the different gifts you think you operate in.
- Are you willing to be equipped and trained? Have you joined the church classes in order to go to the next level in your spiritual growth?

PRAYER

- Are you living up to "calling you have received" verse 1? In your work? Your home? Your relationships? If not ask God to pray and help you in these areas of your life.