

# December 29 – January 4

Walk Worthy | Equip the Saints

**Icebreaker:** Talk about what makes a sports team one of the best. How is unity and individuality a part of their success?

*In this session, we will consider how the church is strongest when it is unified and operating with the unique gifts of each believer.*

## Read Ephesians 4:1–6

- As we revisit these verses from the first week of this series, what is the main idea and the theme of this book?
- How would you summarize a worthy walk based on how Paul defines it in these verses?
- According to this passage, what is the same for all believers?

## Read Ephesians 4:7–16

- Looking at verse 7, what is different for all believers?
- Verses 8–10 give us a picture of Jesus coming to earth and ascending to heaven.
  - What was the purpose of each of these movements?
  - Why did he come to earth? Why does he ascend to heaven?
- There are four roles established by Christ for the leadership of the church.
  - Apostles: Going, moving, building, organizing, and leading God's work.
  - Prophets: Speaking God's truth, consistent with Scripture.
  - Evangelists: Gifted in explaining the Gospel to lost people.
  - Pastor/Teacher: Care for people by explaining the Scriptures to them.
- According to verse 12, what is the goal for these church leaders?
  - What kinds of things fall under "the work of ministry?"
- According to verses 13–14, what are the goals of this equipping ministry?
  - What are examples of deceitful doctrine within our culture?
- According to verses 15–16, how do we protect the church from error?

## Application

- Why is it important that we hold to both our essential unity as one body and our unique differences as people who have been gifted individually by Christ? Why are both unity and individuality important for you as a part of the church?
- Why do people in churches fall into a trap of expecting the pastors to do the work of ministry? How do we prevent this from happening?
- How has God gifted you in ways that would be valuable in the work of the ministry of the church?
- Are there any of the leadership roles that you see in your own life?
- What are our individual roles in protecting the church from false doctrine?