

September 17 (Tentative Title: "Who Participates in the Work of Ministry?")

Verses: Ephesians 4:11-16

Main Verse: Ephesians 4:11-12

Takeaway: Every disciple of Jesus is called to participate in the disciple-making "work of ministry" by speaking the truth in love to other Christians.

Getting Started: Have you ever been a member of a group? (sports team, 4H, etc) What does a member of a group do?

Read: Ephesians 4:11-16

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Who is "he" in verse 11?
- What is the "work of ministry"? What is its purpose?
- Who participates in this "work of ministry"?

Elementary:

- Who is "he" in verse 11?
- What is the "work of ministry"? What is its purpose? Who participates in this "work of ministry"?
- What does it mean to speak the truth to one another in love?
- Why is it important for disciples of Jesus to work together and speak the truth to one another in love?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Through faith in Jesus, all disciples participate in the work of ministry as they are prepared with God's word by church leaders.
- Disciples are called to speak the truth in love to help one another grow to become more like Jesus.
- We need each other, and we need to work together under the leadership of Jesus in order for the church to grow and build itself up in love.

Elementary:

- Through faith in Jesus, all disciples participate in the work of ministry as they are prepared with God's word by church leaders.
- Disciples are called to speak the truth in love to help one another grow to become more like Jesus.
- We speak the truth to one another, not harshly or coldly, but in love. Speaking the truth in love honors God who speaks His truth so lovingly to us, and helps others grow in that truth.
- We need each other, and we need to work together under the leadership of Jesus in order for the church to grow and build itself up in love.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking Him for our church leaders who help us learn and grow through faith in Jesus. Also thank God that all who trust in Christ have a part to play in this same work. Thank Him that we can speak the truth in love to one another. Ask Him to help you to grow in knowledge of Him each day, and to help you to learn to work together with other believers to help the church grow.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking Him for our church leaders who help us learn and grow through faith in Jesus. Also thank God that all who trust in Christ have a part to play in this same work. Thank Him that we can speak the truth in love to one another. Ask Him to help you understand what that means, and ask Him to help you grow in your faith in Him each day. Thank Him for other believers and ask Him how you can work together with them to help the church grow and build itself up in love.