

SESSION 2 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GET STARTED

We are not just a part of the Church, we are also a part of families and friend groups. Photos tell stories. They remind us of moments, our history, and identity. This week, share a family or friends photo wearing matching outfits (pajamas, costumes, etc.) and a story that goes along with it.

Think of your spouse or best friend(s). In what ways are you united with things in common, while also being completely different from one another?

TAKE IT IN

Watch Session 2: WE are ONE at mynorthside.com/WE. What encouraged or challenged you from the video and daily study guide this week?

TALK IT OVER

Read John 17:20-26

- Jesus' prayer for His disciples (present and future) was simple: that WE would be one (united). After reading this passage, what is your response to knowing that Jesus prayed for and had us on His mind? How would you describe the type of unity for which Jesus is praying?
- Look back through the passage, paying attention to the words "know" and "known." What are the results of unity amongst believers? Why is unity such a compelling argument for the Gospel and faith?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

- Paul challenges us to make every effort to keep unity. This does not mean that all believers have to live in agreement on everything. Unity says that our God and His love are so great that we can live with our differences in peace. What are some things that all believers share in common? Share some examples when you have observed unity within our group, local church, or the global Church.

- Unity is an essential characteristic of who WE are as the Church, but that doesn't mean it's easy to maintain. Pastor Larry Osbourne reveals four unity killers trying to take hold within the Church.¹

Pride:

We feel like we are better, smarter, and more committed than other believers. This undermines unity, because the majority of fights amongst believers are about personal opinions, preferences, or difficult passages of Scripture.

Gift Projection:

We assume that what God has called us to do is what God has called everyone to do. This undermines unity by limiting roles of people within the Church, and discourages others that don't fit the mold.

Selfishness:

Simply put, we want it our way. This undermines unity because the focus is building my kingdom and not God's Kingdom.

Impatience:

We get frustrated with those who are not at the same place. This undermines unity, because we forget our own long journey and put unrealistic expectations on others.

- What resonates with or challenges you from the four killers of unity? Can you think of a time when one of these influenced a relationship, group, or church where you have been a part? If so, explain what happened.
- How does being humble, gentle, and patient (v.2) counteract the four killers of unity? What area of your life do you need to be humble, gentle, and patient to help maintain unity?

¹ Larry Osbourne, How To Get Along When We Don't Get Along (sermon, North Coast Church, Carlsbad, CA, February 28, 2015).

Read Romans 12:9-21

- Love and unity go together, and all of us need the help of the Holy Spirit to pursue both. How does this passage on love speak into developing unity? What characteristics found in this passage do you believe you do well? With which do you struggle? Why?
- Reread verse 18. Based on our discussion, how can we be praying for each other as we do our best to live at peace with others?

LIVE IT OUT

The beauty of the Gospel is that everyone stands on common ground through Christ. Unity will draw people to faith and the Church, and disunity will push people away. Reflect back over the four killers of unity discussed this week. Where do you need to make every effort to maintain unity in your relationships, group, or church? Where do you need to be humble, gentle, and/or patient? Pray over these questions, and then pursue unity.

Daily Study Guide: Take 30 minutes each day to complete the daily study guide. Don't think of it as homework, but relational time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."* Ephesians 4:4-6