

4. Make a list of gifts (the people, not what they do) that God has given to the church in verse 11.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Now list what they are supposed to accomplish – give a brief explanation (4:12-13). Note: this is why we should be going to church!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Compare verse 12 with verse 16. Why should we be equipped for service?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What does spiritually infantile behavior look like (4:14)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does spiritually mature behavior look like (4:15-16)? Can you identify areas of growth in these areas that you have experienced over the past year?

## NO LONGER CHILDREN Ephesians 4:7-16

“When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.”

The Apostle Paul

### The call to step up (Eph 4:7-13)

The question: If God is all-powerful and all-sufficient, where do we fit in?

God calls, we lead a worthy life.

God gives us unity, we make the effort to maintain it.

God has provided, accepted, purposed, we step up and partner with him.

Great love is rooted in great partnership.

See Eph 4:8-11

### God's provision for the partnership (Eph 4:11-13)

God gives people to the church; he gives abilities to people.

Gifts given for a purpose

- For building up
- For equipping for ministry

So that we might

- Be unified in faith
- Have knowledge of the Son
- Finally grow up
- Be filled with Christ

### The call to step

Away from

- Pinballing from one fad to the next
- Buying into the world's lies

Instead ...

- Speaking loving truth
- Growing more like Christ
- Fitting into God's plan
- Partnering with Christ by doing my part

### Getting to know you ...

Briefly describe a holiday tradition from your present or past that brings pleasant memories (or nightmares!)

1. On Sunday Jim spoke of a partnership that God has established with us. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Make a list of the things that speak of what God does for us from these verses. Note the qualities that are ours in verses 4-6.
2. Now go back over the same passage and read the commands – what God expects us to do. If God has given us so much, why do we have to put work into it?
3. Read verse 7. In your group, read it in different versions if people have different ones. Some versions call it a “grace” and some call it a “gift.” Think hard. Why does this speak to a partnership between us and God? What gifting do you think that God has given you? Is it important to know?