

Vision & Mission studies **ARPC Mission Equip**



Key verse: Eph 4:11-12.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up



Big Idea: Christians are equipped for service in the world and in the church by the word being explained and applied in our lives.

Kick Off

Consider a project that you would love to have a go at... from baking a cake to building a shed or skyscraper. What things would you need, who would you need to contact and how would you go about it?

This week we are focusing on what it means to Equip through Christ. And to remind ourselves again, our mission and vision statements are as follows:

Our Vision: *To be a vibrant and passionate Christ-centred church community.*

Our Mission: *To Grow in Christ, Equip through Christ, Serve like Christ and Reach others with Christ.*

STUDY

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

We are stepping into the middle of a letter which is always a danger as we may miss the context in doing so. This passage in Ephesians comes after three chapters of teaching on the wonder of God saving lost people from every nation and how he did it.

1. When someone talks about their 'calling' too often they connect it to their job. Why is this wrong, and what is the singular 'calling' Paul is talking about in verse 1? cf. Eph. 1:4-5 and 4:4

2. List the five qualities we are to display in v2 and jot down what you think they mean.

Which one needs to be developed the most in your life?

3. We are urged to unity in v3 but according to v4-6 on what foundation are we to build unity? How is there but one church both around the globe and across the ages?

In the light of your last answer, in what sense does AND doesn't the church have Apostles and Prophets today?

4. Paul next goes into detail as to how unity in the church happens by Jesus giving people with bible teaching skills to the church. What is the relationship between the “some” and the rest?

5. What are the church bible teachers preparing or equipping God’s people for? Explain what you think this might mean in your life and in the life of the church today.

6. Have church leaders and bible teachers reached maturity v13? What is required for a church to reach maturity v16?

V14 paints chaos and v 15,16 presents the contrast... infancy vs maturity, tossed about vs held together, deception vs speaking the truth, of man vs of Christ, crafty self-servers vs honest people serving others.

THINK AND APPLY

a. Is it possible to be loving and untruthful? How about truthful and unloving?

b. Do you agree with the following statements regarding truth?

Worship is telling the truth about God...

Confession is us telling the truth about ourselves...

Counselling is helping people deal with the truth...

Truth becomes hard if it’s not softened by love and love becomes soft if it’s not strengthened by truth...

c. Think of areas in your life where you have matured as a result of hearing and applying the gospel truth.

How has studying this part of God’s word better equipped you for service this week?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
Mark 10: 35-45**