

ONE

WEEK 6

LIFE GROUP
FACILITATOR GUIDE

// Announcements // Upcoming Events

March 12th - Life Group Facilitator and Host Home Training

March 15th - Winter Baptisms

Week of March 15th - Barefoot Sunday outreach prep in your life group (last week of winter life groups)

March 20-22 - Men's Desert Retreat

// Week 7 // Main Emphasis: Make It Better // Ephesians 4:11-16

During this series, we have been exploring the ways that God wants to further unite all of us here at Newbreak as "ONE." Over the past couple weeks, we have looked at the way Newbreak approaches ministry, how we "Keep it Accessible," "Do it Together," "Make it Better" and "Give it Away." As we learned two weeks ago, committing to "Keep it Accessible" means that we don't ever want to do something that would make God or church out of reach for people. Last week, we talked about how "none of us is as smart as all of us" and in order to accomplish God's mission for us, we need to collaborate and "Do it Together." This week we are going to talk about what it means to "Make it Better." God's plan for us individually is that we will always grow and develop to become more mature and never settle for "good enough."

// Opening Prayer // 5 minutes

FACILITATOR NOTE: Open this week by praying for God to continually open our minds and hearts to how He is uniting us as ONE church focused on ONE mission.

// Lean In // 5-7 minutes

Last week, we talked about how we approach ministry by "Doing it Together." We are all individual parts that God has shaped and formed into one united body of believers. As you reflected on this over the past week, what are some of the ways you have learned to collaborate and become a better team-player over the years – whether at church or in another environment?

// Look Down // 15 minutes

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

In Ephesians 4:12-13, Paul uses words like “built up,” “mature” and “fullness of Christ.” These are the ideas behind the phrase “Make it Better.” God wants us to always be growing, constantly building others up, and maturing spiritually. God doesn’t want us to settle; He doesn’t want us to be okay with second best. God’s plan has always been that we will collectively continue to grow. But to do that, we have to commit to a path of excellence or we will be tempted to follow the loudest voice. It’s been said that, “You’ve got to stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.”

QUESTION 1: *When you reflect upon the words Paul used in verses 12-13 (“built up,” “mature” and “fullness of Christ”), what are some of the areas in your own life where you are seeing growth?*

QUESTION 2: *What are some practical steps you can take daily to pursue spiritual growth?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: Some suggested practical steps are:

- **Connect with God** every day: Read your Bible daily.
 - YouVersion is a Bible app you can download for your phone or tablet. It has several daily Bible reading plans and devotionals.
- **Set time aside** each day for prayer.
- **Choose an activity** that makes you feel close to God. For some, that is being in nature. For others, it is listening to worship music or journaling what God is doing in their life. Find what speaks most to you and commit to doing it.
- **Commit to going through the Lead Like Jesus workbook** to understand your personal values, vision, mission, etc.
- **Take personality and spiritual gift tests** to understand better how to let God fully utilize you.
- **Disciple and develop others** (not just affirming or criticizing them, but intentionally helping them grow.)

Author William Arthur Ward once said, “The price of excellence is discipline. The cost of mediocrity is disappointment.” God doesn’t want us to be mediocre. Sometimes, however, when we feel this way, it’s because we’ve given up embracing anything “better” or have resigned ourselves to the status quo. The path to excellence depends on us committing to growing and developing. Setting goals can help us do just that.

QUESTION 3: *Refer back to the Measures we discussed in Week 3 (if necessary, they can be accessed in the Newbreak App under Week 1 of the Life Groups tab). With those measures in mind, what are some goals you have for your own spiritual growth in the next year?*

// Live It Out // 15 minutes

The passage we read in Ephesians 4 also talks about what we call “spiritual gifts” in verse 11. They include things like teaching others about Jesus and the Bible, telling others how following God radically changes lives, speaking Biblical truth in a way that people can apply it to their lives, helping others begin a relationship with Jesus, and gently leading people and caring for them when they are in need. This is not a complete list of all the things God empowers believers to do. Other passages of scripture describe additional gifts. The point Paul is making here is that we need to understand that God didn’t give people these gifts to use them for their own personal benefit but, rather, His desire is that all would use their unique gifts to inspire and empower others. In this way, the church is built up as we all commit to constantly growing, serving, operating in our unique gifts, and making it better together.

QUESTION 4: *As you think about the idea of God giving you unique “gifts,” how do you think He has gifted you to be used in the church and for the benefit of others?*

// Look In // 15 minutes

In Ephesians 4:15 Paul says that when we are, “speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” “Make it Better” is rarely easy, but is always necessary and often requires speaking the truth. We have to become willing to have courageous conversations and to commit to growing and developing ourselves and others. We must be disciplined to do this much needed work.

QUESTION 5: *Who are the people that you have invited to speak truth into your life to help you grow?*

QUESTION 6: *What is one area of your life where you sense God is specifically challenging you to “Make It Better?” How can we, as your life group, be praying for you in this area?*

// Key Memory Verse // Ephesians 4:15

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

// Closing Prayer // 5-7 minutes

Take some time and share any prayer requests. As you close this week, take time to pray that God would help us be united as a church and we would be people that are passionate about serving Him and are committed to always growing, developing, and using our gifts together to “Make it Better.”