

# SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

July 11/12, 2015; Revealed

**Speaker:**

Dr. Dick Foth

**Scripture Focus:** Ephesians 4:1-16

**Note To Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed “Unity Revealed.” These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

**Icebreaker Suggestions:** Dr. Foth shared his love of getting hand-written letters in the mail. What was the last hand written note or letter you sent or received? What is the best thing you’ve ever received in the mail?

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. The book of Ephesians tells us there are things within us that God wants to REVEAL to us and open our eyes to. Not only that, but he wants to call these things out of us. What needs to be revealed to you during this sermon series?

**Specific Questions:**

1. Ephesians 4 begins with Paul, in prison, requesting the people of Ephesus to “*walk in a manner worthy of God.*” The NIV translation of Ephesians 4:1 is, “*I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*” How do you walk in, or conduct, your life? Is it in a manner worthy of God? If not, what changes could you make this week to put it more in line with a manner worthy of God?
2. Dr. Foth stated that if you want to “walk worthy,” Good News! Ephesians 4:2-3 provides the instructions for how to do so. After reading the verses aloud, which of the guidelines is the easiest for you to follow? Which one is the hardest? Why?

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3*

3. Dr. Foth shared the story of the first time he met his father-in-law when Dr. Foth was 10 years old. He stated that he had great respect for him in part because he spoke to the kids “like they were real people.” When you look back at the people who have impacted your life, for whom do you have “great respect?” Why? If you answered question 2, did the people you respect, “walk worthy?”
4. While discussing Ephesians 4:11-12, Dr. Foth shared that the point of Christian leadership – the apostles, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers listed in verse 11 – is to equip the body of Christ. Who are leaders in your life who have equipped you? How did they do it? Are there any overlaps in these people and those for whom you have “great respect?”
5. Dr. Foth stated that, “A “good atmosphere” is created when you love Jesus and love each other.” What kind of atmosphere are you creating?
6. Dr. Foth stated several times in the message that, “You’re unworthy, but you’re not worthless.” Describe what that means using your own words. Do you believe this statement to be true? Why or why not?
7. Dr. Foth ended the message stating, “Please God so you can be one. When you are one, then the world will know Jesus is who he claims to be. Jesus really is the center.” What is your reaction or response to this charge? Why?

### **Challenge:**

**Read, Pray, Act:** Dr. Foth shared about his friend who started each day with the prayer, “**Jesus, what are you doing in this city today and may I do it with you?**” Consider beginning each day this week with this prayer, and then journaling at the end of every day the ways that the Holy Spirit worked in you and through throughout the day, thanking Him for letting you be a part of his work.

**Read, Pray, Act:** Pray through Ephesians 4:1-16 using the Lectio Divina (“divine reading”) method.

1. **Read** through Ephesians 4:1-16 listening for the word or phrase that strikes you or stands out.
2. Read back through Ephesians 4:1-16 this time **reflecting** on the following questions:
  - a. What is it in my life that needed to hear this word today?
  - b. How does this compare to how I live my life?
  - c. Where am I in this letter?
  - d. In what ways am I aligned to this passage?
  - e. What must be claimed today?
3. Read through Ephesians 4:1-16 again to **respond** to the following questions:
  - a. What is the invitation or challenge for us to respond to?
  - b. What is our response to God’s invitation?
4. This time, as you read through Ephesians 4:1-16, focus on **rest**.
  - a. Release and return to a place of rest in God.

- b. Have a posture of total yieldedness.
5. In the final time of reading through Ephesians 4:1-16, read it with **resolve** to carry this word and live it out.