# Week 4: Mutuality

Coaching Video: [bit.ly/FCWeek4](http://bit.ly/FCWeek4)

## INTRODUCTION (15 MIN)

### Debrief the Week (5 min)

Last week, we talked about radical inclusion, and how to be intentionally welcoming to all.

Share: Debrief communal and personal action steps. What did you do during large group, and what impact did it have?

Vision + Objective (2 min)

Access and equity in flourishing communities are not contingent on social status. Instead, *everyone* practices self-giving, so joys and pains are shared. Mutuality leads to unity.

### Ice Breaker(8 min)

Discuss examples of mutuality. Where have you seen deep commitment and both joys and pains shared in a relationship or community? Consider personal examples, movies, or books.

Pray to transition.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION (25 MIN)

Passage Background[[1]](#footnote-2)

* Corinth: a prosperous port city that was culturally diverse with huge disparities between the wealthy and the poor.
* Paul’s letter to the church addresses status and class issues. The gifts and skills valued in the church were based on what culture valued. Unity through mutuality would be their witness.

### Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-28

#### Observation:

* What stands out about the metaphor Paul uses for the church? What is repeated?
* What should be uniting the community?

#### Interpretation:

* Why might this call to unity be challenging for the Corinthian church? What barriers might this community have to address or overcome?
* What is at stake? Why is this message of unity important for the church?

#### Application:

* What can it teach us about the relationship between diversity and unity?
* What challenges or inspires you from today’s discussion?

## RESPONSE (25 MIN)

### Activity (15 min)

Fellowship Assessment[[2]](#footnote-3): Honestly examining disparities within a community is necessary for true mutuality. Consider the questions below from various angles like gender, personality, ethnicity/race, and more.

* Who are perceived to be "insiders" vs. "outsiders" of the fellowship? Why?
* Who has decision-making power? How are decision-makers chosen?
* Who shares life together? Who shares secrets?
* Are you intimate enough to tell each other hard truths?
* What gifts or skills tend to be honored or celebrated in your community? Which go unnoticed or seem to be less valued?

Discuss: What barriers or opportunities exist for your community to truly practice mutuality? What would have to continue or change in order to truly share one another’s joys and pains?

### Action Steps (5 min)

* Collective: Discuss ways that your community can practice sharing life and including people who might feel excluded. (ideas: lunch, do laundry together, coffee run, study, etc.).
* Personal: Take 15min this week to journal about who you tend to overlook or ignore in your community and why. Pray a prayer of repentance ask God to help you honor them.

### Prayer (3 min)

1. Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014), 459-461, 485-486. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Questions adapted from Alexia Salvatierra’s “Courageous Assessment Metrics of Power Dynamics” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)