

Week 4: Mutuality

Coaching Video: 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 Background¹

- 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 Assessment²: 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.

² Questions adapted from Alexia Salvatierra's "Courageous Assessment Metrics of Power Dynamics"