

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others** **(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)**

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

### **1 Relationships**

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

### **2 Health**

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

### **3 Wealth**

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

### **4 Education**

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

### **5 Church**

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

# Unity and Uniqueness

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## **Ephesians 4:1–16**

### **Purpose:**

To see the place of unity and of unique gifts in the body of Christ.

### **WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)**

What ability do you possess that you like most?

### **WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord** **(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)**

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

**Pray your “thank you” to God**

## **WORD (Aim for 40—45 minutes)**

While Ephesians 1–3 provides a doctrinal foundation, Ephesians 4–6 shows in practical detail how to give glory to God in the church. Paul now considers the quality of life that is demanded of believers individually and in the fellowship of Christ's church.

1. Read Ephesians 4:1–16. Paul is so concerned for these Christians that he *begs* them to lead a life worthy of their calling. According to Ephesians 1–3, what is the calling to which they have been called?
  
2. What are the characteristics of a life which is worthy of our calling (vv. 1–3)?
  
3.  Which qualities help you foster unity with others? Which do you still need to work on?
  
4. In verses 8–10 Christ is compared to a conquering hero whose triumphal procession fills “the whole universe,” from the highest heaven to the lowest earth. He then generously distributes gifts (the spoils of victory) to his loyal followers. What is the nature and purpose of these gifts (vv. 11–13)?

5.  Which of these five spiritual gifts do you think you might have?
  
6. How does spiritual infancy differ from spiritual maturity (vv. 14–16)?
  
7. What winds and waves are blowing and tossing our local church today?
  
8. While 4:1–6 sets forth the unity we have as believers, 4:7–11 describes our uniqueness through the individual gifts we have received. How does Paul's explanation of the proper function and goal of these gifts bring us right back to the opening theme of Ephesians 4?
  
9.  In verse 16 Paul says that the body “grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” What steps do you need to take to more fully work toward this goal?

*From Ephesians: Wholeness for a Broken World by Andrew T. & Phyllis J. Le Peau. Copyright 1985 by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the United States of America. Published by InterVarsity Press.*