**WEEK EIGHT – ONE**

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.’ Ephesians 4 1-6*

**WELCOME - involve everyone, introduce new people, mention absences**

*Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving. Use an ‘open/general’ question topic related that engages everyone*

**WORD – ask key question related to the topic**

*Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don’t; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone*

Ephesians 4:1-6

1) In these scriptures we see that God asks us to “maintain” the unity of the Holy Spirit in the

bond of peace, as opposed to “creating” it. What’s been your experience of the Unity in the

Church, and why do you think this is?

2) If we are to maintain this unity that God has given, we need to “walk” (live with one

another) with “Humility, gentleness, patience and forbearance”- which of these do you feel

that you have been the recipient of from another believer/s, and in what way/s? How did

that affect you? Which one of these do you think you need to grow in more yourself?

How can you express this/these in your local church, and the wider community of all

believers?

3) Paul exhorts us to “be eager” (other versions of the Bible say “make every effort”) in maintaining the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”. Are there any ways in your thinking, attitude or actions that you are not making every effort- in Redeemer, Relational mission, or other Christian communities? And what can action can you take? Potentially break off into 2/3s- Encourage one another, pray for one another and help one another by choosing to be accountable- check in with one another on how we are doing with this in the next couple of weeks (potentially a reminder on the group WhatsApp if appropriate,but make it personal).

4) There is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith and baptism and One Father

that unifies the community of all believers across the world.

Pray for the unity in Redeemer. Pray for other local church congregations. Pray for the unity ofthe universal Church (all believers).

If you are aware of heart attitudes of things you have said and done that do not reflect the

oneness of God’s people- confess, repent and ask for someone to pray for you this evening.

**WORSHIP**

*Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let’s read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let’s listen to this song, let’s sing now, let’s have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!\** ***BREAK BREAD REGULARLY\****

* Encourage prayers of thanks to God for His faithfulness.
* Introduce worship with scripture, exhortation and encouragement as to HOW to participate
* If you do songs;
	+ provide lyrics so new people are not awkward/unknown songs are not unhelpful
	+ Try to avoid videos with adverts

**PRAYER**

Get into twos or threes and share one prayer request and then pray for each other. Could you also commit to pray for each other through the week?

* Encourage spiritual gifts (e.g. prophecy)

**ACTION STEPS**

Turn to the action steps at the end of week one of the devotional and ask people to take time in the week to consider them.

Take some time to reflect with God. Are there new things He is leading you to explore? During the week find a trusted friend to talk these things through with.

**DELEGATE**

Who will do what next week?