



**Dig Deeper @Home – “Living in Faithful Community”
Complement to sermon on 11/11/2018 – “The Desired Aim”**

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What’s your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?
2. What Thanksgiving meal item best describes you and why?

MEMORIZE – Ephesians 4: 15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every point with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

READ – Read Ephesians 4

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Paul talks about being “renewed in the Spirit of your minds” in v23. This is passive tense for the reader, meaning this is being done to me and for me. How does this happen? Look back and read Ephesians 1: 16-23 and and 3: 14-21. What does these prayers of Paul reveal?
4. Paul tells us to “speak the truth with our neighbor” in v25. How should we understand this in light of verse 21 which says that “the truth is in Jesus”?
5. Paul changes how he refers to the 2nd person of the trinity throughout his writings, here in chapter 3 we see Christ (v20, 32) and Jesus (v21) (and possibly Lord in v17). What is the significance of these different designations? What is Paul saying by using these different designations?

Summarize Ephesians 4 in your own words:

Experiential: Washing the mouth with soap

Not really, but perhaps older generations experienced this or know someone who did. In a way, this is what Paul commands in v29: "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up..." This is your goal each day this week. At the end of the day, take time and journal. How did you do? When was this difficult? When did you fail? Did you ask forgiveness when you failed? (If not, it's a good thing to do tomorrow). Where did you succeed?

Testimony Time?

Words are powerful: share a time when your words built someone up or someone's words built you up...share a time when your words tore someone down or you were torn down by someone's words.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Proof of Your Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8plqE-Mxx1g>

A good song from King and Country compelling us to live lives that reflect the love of Christ.

Praise Him! Praise Him! – Mennonite Hymnal #530

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Creator God, thank you for new life in Christ and the community that you have placed me in. Help me this week to foster relationships that are genuine and honest, full of grace and truth. As we do, let us build places of belonging and healing. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.