



## How the Church Works and Grows

Ephesians 4:11-16

Sunday, January 26, 2020

### How a Local Church is meant to \_\_\_\_\_

- A local church is meant to grow in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Followers of Jesus are called to a committed life together in a local church. How is a local church designed to work? How is a local church meant to grow? Paul lays out God's blueprint in Ephesians 4:11-16 . . .*

### How a Local Church is designed to \_\_\_\_\_

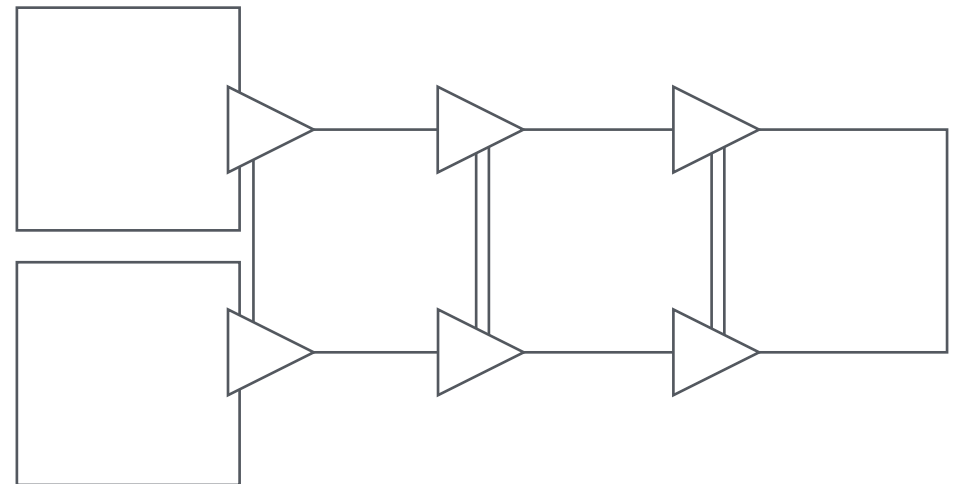
- What is a local church?

*A local church is a living community of Jesus followers who are \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus together.*

- A local church grows in unity and maturity through our \_\_\_\_\_ one another in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A local church grows in unity and maturity through the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word in \_\_\_\_\_.

- God's design for a local church.



**NEXT WEEK**  
**Off with the Old Self**  
 Ephesians 4:17-22



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*Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at [gracecentralcoast.org](http://gracecentralcoast.org).*

*This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.*

### Connecting Together

*Living life together involves vulnerability and risk-taking. So take some time to share current joys and struggles. How are you doing? ("Fine" is not an acceptable answer!)*

### Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Read Ephesians 4:7-16 together again as group. How did you come under God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you? What did you learn or what were you reminded of in this study?
2. Every church has strengths and weaknesses, things that it's passionate about and things for which it's known. How would you describe Grace Central Coast? How do you think others would describe Grace Central Coast? How do both these descriptions compare with the blueprint we're given in Ephesians 4? Are we living within the lines?

3. In Ephesians 4:11, Paul mentions 5 different gifts that are given to the church. What are these gifts for? Do you see something in common among them? According to Ephesians 2:20-21, which were foundational for the early establishment of the church?
4. Ephesians 4 teaches that the local church, if it's working as God intends, will grow in unity and maturity. Does this include the numerical growth of the church?
5. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** The local church grows as we serve one another in love and as we speak the truth in love. Which is harder and why? How comfortable is your group with speaking the truth in love to one another?
6. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** Growing in maturity as a church must involve growing in our understanding and commitment to the mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost. Who are some not-yet-Christians in your circles of influence that God is calling you to pray for, love and serve? Make a list of names! Is there a way you could engage some of these people together as a group?

### Praying Together

- Serve one another by praying for one another's needs.
- Pray that your group might learn to speak the truth in love with one another more often and more effectively.
- Pray for the list of names in your circles of influence that God is calling you to pray for, love and serve.