

Walking Through the Door of

FAITH

*Ministry of Biblical
Studies*

OCTOBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

"Equipping the Saints for Ministry"

October 23, 2024

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MCC1920.org

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Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church
Ministry of Biblical Study Classes
October 23, 2024

“Equipping the Saints for Ministry”
11:00am - 11:45am

Key Scripture

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV) – “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Objectives

- Explore the roles Christ has given to the Church and how they equip believers for ministry.
- Identify spiritual gifts and reflect on how we can grow in our unique callings.
- Understand the importance of unity and maturity in the Body of Christ as we serve together.

Key Points for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Christ’s Gifts to the Church

In Ephesians 4:11, Paul lists several roles given by Christ:

- **Apostles:** Sent out to establish and build churches.
- **Prophets:** Share God’s message, offering guidance and encouragement.
- **Evangelists:** Spread the Gospel, reaching the lost.
- **Pastors and Teachers:** Shepherd and instruct the church in the Word.

Question for Reflection:

How do you see these roles active in your local church? Which role do you identify with or see operating in your life?

2. Equipping for Service

Christ gave these roles to equip the saints (believers) for works of service. The goal is not for personal glory but for the edification of the Body of Christ.

Question for Reflection:

In what ways do you feel equipped to serve in the Body of Christ? Where do you feel you need more equipping, and how can the church help?

3. Growing in Our Spiritual Gifts

We are each called to grow in the **gifts God has given us**. The more we grow, the more effective we become in fulfilling God's mission. This growth happens through:

- **Prayer:** Seeking God's guidance for direction.
- **Study of Scripture:** Knowing the Word to apply it in our service.
- **Mentorship:** Learning from others who are spiritually mature.

Question for Reflection:

What are some practical steps you can take to grow in your spiritual gifts? How can you help others discover and grow in their gifts?

4. Unity and Maturity in Christ

Our spiritual growth is not just for individual benefit. It is for the building up of the entire Body until we all reach unity in faith and maturity in Christ.

Question for Reflection:

How can we as a church work towards greater unity in our ministries? What does spiritual maturity look like in your life, and how does it impact your service?

Application:

- **Examine Your Spiritual Gifts:** Take time this week to reflect on the gifts God has given you. If you're unsure, ask a trusted mentor or leader to help you identify your strengths.

- **Seek Opportunities to Serve:** How can you use your gifts to serve the Body of Christ more effectively? Consider specific areas within the church or community that could benefit from your talents.
- **Pray for Unity and Growth:** Pray for the unity of the church and for your own spiritual growth. Ask God to help you mature in your faith so you can be fully equipped for the work He has set before you.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gifts You have given to the Church. Help us to grow in our spiritual gifts and to serve one another in unity and love. Equip us for the work You have called us to, and may we be faithful in building up the Body of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scripture for Study:

- Romans 12:4-8 – Understanding the diversity of gifts within the Body of Christ.
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 – Using our gifts to serve others faithfully.
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – The manifestation of the Spirit through various gifts.

Notes:

Feel free to jot down any personal reflections, questions, or commitments for this week. How will you apply today's lesson to your life and ministry?

This handout is designed to guide you as you prepare for the ministry God has set before you. Let us continue to grow in our gifts and serve in unity for the glory of God!

