

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### ⑧ Church in the City

#### INTRODUCTION | Work of Ministry

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Today, let's look at what it means for the church to be built together in love. Our first point is the structure of the church. Though it could be said that the church grows organically, the Gospel movement nevertheless requires workers and organisation. Second, we see that all people can be used in works for service. There is a place in which all Christians can use their unique gifts and talents for the benefit and encouragement of others. Lastly, let's focus on the wonderful thing that it is to mature into the likeness of Christ. This is an integral part of what it means to live as a Christian.

#### SCRIPTURE | Ephesian 4:11-16

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11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

#### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: (Verse 11) What roles has Christ given to the church for the work of the Gospel? What are some of the characteristics of each role?
- 2: The church requires not only pastors and teachers but also elders and deacons. Let's think about the roles and responsibilities of each with reference to the follow passages. (Acts 20:17, 28, 31-32)
- 3: (Verse 12-15) According to verse 12-13, what purpose has been given to the structure and workers of the church? In what way can you be serving in the work of the Gospel?
- 4: According to verse 14-15, the Gospel of Christ will encounter various challenges and opposition. Please share if you have faced opposition with respect to the truth of the Gospel. Let us think about how we can be speaking the truth in love.
- 5: (Verse 16) What metaphors does Paul use when describing the church? From this, what can be said about the nature of the church? (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- 6: What is required for mutual growth as we work together? Let's think practically and share and pray about how we personally and as a church can grow in maturity.

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### REFERENCES |

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Acts 20:17, 28, 31-32

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 6:1-3

6 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### PRAYER |

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- Let us pray that God would raise up elders at Grace City. Let us also pray that we might know how we also can be partnering in the work of God's Kingdom and to know how we can practically be serving at church.
- Let us pray that, being built together in love, we might grow in maturity together and reflect the necessity and beauty of the Gospel to the non-Christians in our midst.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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Community Group Leader Training ② (26)

Gospel Choir (26)

Lunchtime Meetings (28@Marunouchi, 29@Otemachi)

Obento Project (7/1)

Sunday Worship (7/2) Church in the City ⑨ (13:00 & 15:30@KDDI Hall)

Community Group Leader Training ③ (3)

Lunchtime Meetings (4@Akasaka, 5@Kasumigaseki, 6@Otemachi)

Barbeque @ Showa Kinen Park (Tachikawa) (8) Registration: info@gracecitychurch.jp (RSVP 7/2)

Sunday Worship (9) City Church ⑩ (13:00 & 15:30@KDDI Hall)