

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's 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.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

Prepare Others

I have called you to come to me. I have called you to follow me. I have called you to serve me. I have richly blessed your life. I have given you gifts and talents and abilities to be used to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. How will I will bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name? You will use your gifts and talents and abilities to help prepare people for works of service so that my body can be built up. You are not to simply serve me, but you are to also help others to serve me. I want to multiply your efforts through your preparing and building others up to serve me.

Let me ask you a question. I'm listening. **When you came to me, were you ready to serve me.** No, not really. Oh, maybe I could serve you in some small ways. **Yes, and that is what you did. You started serving me in small ways right away. That was very good, make no mistake about that. Every day that you have followed and served me you have become more prepared to serve me in larger and greater ways. How did I prepare you to serve me? Who did I use to prepare and build you up to serve me?** You brought people into my life that taught me how to love and follow and serve you. They gave me a good example to follow. They showed me how to live my life with and for you. Through them, you prepared me to be used in your service. Through them, you built me up as a member of your body. **Yes, I did.**

What would have happened to you if some of my faithful followers never helped prepare and build you up to serve me? I would have never progressed. I would have never grown. I would have never developed. I would have gone on serving you in small, almost infantile ways. **That's true. But, they took the time. They invested their lives in yours. They did not just serve me through their own efforts. They took the time to prepare and build you up so that you could serve me with your efforts.** Yes, they did and I am so thankful for the people that have invested their lives in my life. **That is very good.**

Will you invest your life in the lives of others? Will you prepare others to serve me? Will you use your gifts, and talents and abilities to help build up my body? Will you allow your efforts to be multiplied through the efforts of others? Yes Lord, I will. **Then you will truly bear an abundance of fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name.**

Lord, thank you for calling me to serve you. You have used others to prepare me for service and build up your body. I have benefited from their labor. Use the gifts, talents and abilities you have given me to also prepare others for service and build up your body. Amen

Discipleship *May Be Built Up*

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's 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.

NIV Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Build Up*

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

NLT Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Building Up*

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

NRSV Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Building Up*

And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ *and* the completeness found in Him.

AMP Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Building Up*

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

NASB Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Building Up*

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 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,

ESV Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Edifying*

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

NKJV Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Moving Rhythmically And Easily*

filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

MSG Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Building Up*

Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God. Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.

TLB Ephesians 4:11-13

Discipleship *Make The Body Stronger*

And Christ gave gifts to people—he made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to have the work of caring for and teaching God's people. Christ gave those gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger. This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.

NCV Ephesians 4:11-13

May Be Built Up

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Discipleship – Ephesians 4:11-13

In Context: *Read Ephesians 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's 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. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

It was he | who gave | some | to be | apostles, | some | to be | prophets, | some | to be | evangelists, | and some | to be | pastors | and | teachers, | to prepare | God's 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. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for calling me to serve you. You have used others to prepare me for service and build up your body. I have benefited from their labor. Use the gifts, talents and abilities you have given me to also prepare others for service and build up your body. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What has the Lord used to help prepare you for service and build up His body?

Who has the Lord used to help prepare you for service and building up His body?

What gifts, talents and abilities has God given you for the building up the body of Christ?

Why is it vitally important that you use your gifts, talents and abilities to build up the body of Christ?

How are you making every effort to encourage and support unity in the body of Christ?

How are you and others growing mature in Christ as you help build up the body of Christ?

How are you and others coming to know Christ more fully as you help build up His body?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow the Lord to use you to prepare people for service so that His body can be built up.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will use you to prepare people for service so that His body can be built up.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how others have prepared you for service to build up the body of Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow God to use you to build up the body of Christ.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow you to use me to build up your body.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use me to build up your body?
