

3. Why does Paul quote from Psalm 68:18 in Ephesians 4:8? What imagery does he want to paint with these words?

4. What is meant by “he ascended” and “he descended” in Ephesians 4:9? What does Paul want us to remember concerning Christ in verses 8-10?

5. What are the five grace gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11? Why do you think Paul listed these specific roles in the church? Do you think this list of five gifted roles is exhaustive? Why or why not?

OUR WALK WITH GOD

1. Are you aware of which spiritual gift(s) God has given you? How can you discover what your spiritual gifts are? How are you currently using your giftedness to serve and build up the body of Christ? If you are not using your giftedness in the church, what might you do this week to begin employing the gifts that God has blessed you with?

2. Though all believers are “one in Christ,” Paul says we have been given a unique spiritual gift(s). How does your uniqueness help the body of believers at RiverLakes? Can your giftedness have an impact on unbelievers outside of the body of Christ? Explain.

3. What does “God’s grace” mean to you personally? How is His grace manifested in your life today? How should this grace affect the way you treat and value others in the body of Christ?

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Psalm 68:18-21. How do these verses relate to the passage we just studied in Ephesians 4:7-11? What encouragement and hope do the verses in this Psalm provide for you today?

2. Read Philippians 2:6-11. How do these verses strengthen the imagery of “ascending” and “descending” in Ephesians 4:8-10? Express your thankfulness to Jesus for the incredible depths of sacrifice that He went through for you.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“If you feel that you have been called to a high office or been given a remarkable gift, do not be proud, do not boast of it, and do not despise another brother. We must all be content with the function which we have been given, the task to which we have been called. ‘I am what I am by the grace of God.’ It is He who has called me, it is He who has given me the ability...

It is our duty to see that the church functions as the Lord intended. Let us therefore, all of us, humble ourselves, confess our pride or our jealousy, our envy or failure, our self-seeking, our self importance, our feelings that we are neglected. Let us humble ourselves before Him; let us ask Him to forgive us, let us ask Him to make plain and clear what He has called us to do and what He desires us to do. Then, let us rise up

and do it with all our might, relying upon the authority and the power of the Holy Ghost Himself.”

“Christian Unity,” D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMAT
“THE GRACE OF GIFTS” (EPHESIANS 4:7-11)
WEEK THIRTEEN – APRIL 29, 2007

CONNECT 30 MINUTES

Time of Fellowship

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker Questions:

1. What was the best job you ever had? Why?
2. Who was your favorite teacher in school? Why?

MEMORY VERSE: (Memorize and say aloud in your group) 5 MINUTES

Ephesians 4:7, “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 35 MINUTES

PRAYER AND PERSONAL SHARING 30 MINUTES

1. Encourage the members of your small group to determine what their spiritual gift is and to pursue using this gift to build up the body of believers at RCC.
2. Offer thanks to our Lord for the amazing gift of grace that He extends to us through Jesus Christ. Pray that the body of believers at RCC will truly “walk in a manner worthy of the calling they have received.”

3. Pray for the personal needs of one another in your small group.