



## Series Description

Are you ready and prepared? As a skilled worker carrying tools in a toolbox, each follower of Jesus is being equipped with tools for the mission to which God has called us. Take a look at your toolbox: what tools do you have, what tools are you missing, and how are you using your tools to glorify God?

This small group discussion-based series uses Ephesians 4:1-16 as a foundation to inspire each of us to connect to God, to serve others, to work together in unity, and to hone our spiritual craftsmanship skills along the way.

**WEEK 1: GOD IS CALLING. ARE YOU LISTENING?** (God calls you to a be on a mission with Him)

**WEEK 2: WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?** (God equips you for your calling)

**WEEK 3: BUILD IT UP** (Through the church, God equips us to build up the Body of Jesus.

**WEEK 4: UNITY: TO THIS ONE END** (God equips us for unity)

## Key Verses

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-16 (ESV)

*1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

*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.*

## Organizing the Small Group Time

Use this guide as a resource for your discussion. Allow it to help your group focus, but do not feel restricted or obligated by it. Each week includes three sections.

- *Seeing the Need* (5-10 min) – Each week, we will start with a need that is common to our experiences. Seeing the need means that we lay the foundation for *why* the discussion around the main point matters.
- *What the Bible Says* (30+ min) – This section should comprise the bulk of your time together. This section includes key Scriptures, explanatory notes, and discussion questions. Consider this section the tether to keep your group focused during your time together.
- *Living It Out* (5-10 min) – The final section focuses on life application. Included each week in this section are possible ways in which the truths of the lesson can be applied personally. This section answers the question, “*So what?*” These action steps are possible ways in which the truth can be lived out, but they are not the only ways in which the lesson can be applied, so feel free to add your own.

## Equipped

*katartismo* (n.) (Greek) – completely furnished, brought or joined together, perfected.

In our modern world, we would use the idea of being equipped in reference to a craftsman, artisan, or tradesperson who has all the right tools for the job at hand.

As followers of Jesus Christ, being equipped means that we are prepared, trained, and ready for the calling which God has placed on our lives. Discipleship, which involves both the head knowledge of God’s actions in history and a continually conversational relationship and trusting in Jesus daily, is based in the Scripture. The Bible’s special position is revealed in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) – “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”