



# THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | Series: Made to Thrive

Title: DO More

Scripture: Epistle Ephesians 4:1-16

## Opening:

These questions are meant to get people to talk. Try and encourage participation from everyone. Warning: don't let this last too long! This is to get the ball rolling not to be the only discussion of the evening.

1. What is the best gift you have ever been given?
2. Do you know your gifting from God?

## Series Review:

In the Made to Thrive series Steve has been teaching through the book of Ephesians. We have heard the following messages:

1. Less Effort, More Jesus
2. Less Volunteers, More Masterpieces
3. Less Guilt, More Love

This week we covered Less Hierarchy, More Missionaries.

Ephesians was written Paul in approximately 60 A.D., while he was on house arrest in Rome. This Epistle or letter was written to the church in Ephesus but was meant to be shared with the wider church in southwestern Asia Minor. The main themes of the letter are unity, Christ, Church, and the Trinity.

## Reviewing the Message:

Read Ephesians 4:1-6 Jesus has designed the church to transform society.

The theme of these verses is unity. We as a church need to strive for unity with one another, but also with the universal Church. This is a reminder that it is not about us as individuals, us as a single church, but rather, about the Church as a whole.

We are reminded in verse 6 "...one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." It is in and through God that HIS church will be unified. We need to be a church that Jesus "fits in."

Q. Why is unity important?

**Reviewing  
the  
Message:**

Read Ephesians 4:7-10 Christ's gift of grace has been given to each one of us.

Verse 8 states "For it says: When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people."

Everyone single one of us has been given a gift or gifts.

Q. Do you know or understand your gift and how it can be used in the church?

Read Ephesians 4:11-12 This text has been referred to as a commissioning text.

Paul explains that Jesus has formed the church with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Paul also says that Jesus equipped the saints for the work that they have been given and that it would be used to build up the body of Christ.

These are the categories of gifts that have been given to us. Here are brief descriptions of each category as described by Steve.

- Apostles-the ones who are sent. Church exists to take Christ's work into the world.
- Prophets-the ones that keep the church connected to God. They are willing to speak the truth and are obligated to justice.
- Evangelists-the ones that show the beauty of the cross.
- Shepherds-the ones committed to the community and protecting it. They gather around folks and love on them.
- Teachers-the ones that bring wisdom and teaching.

Q. Of the categories above, which two did Steve say that most churches prioritize the most? Shepherds and teachers.

Jesus as our example fulfilled all of these roles. He showed us that it is IMPERATIVE that all of these gifts be used to build up the church.

Q. Do you know where you fit in?

Ephesians 4:13-16 It takes all of us to make the church.

All of us with all of our gifts must be involved, because that is the way God designed his church. God gave us these gifts to go and engage the world. It cannot be done alone, with one set of gifts, or by people that refuse to use their gifts.

**Reviewing  
the  
Message:**

We have to be involved in each other's lives to be the church. Steve encouraged us to be the church and to see what God will do with us.

Q. How can Thrive engage our community and the world?

**Living It Out  
Application:**

God has designed his church to engage the world. He has made it so that each one of us is important and valuable, by giving us gifts, and equipping us to transform the world.

We see an example of God's plan being played out in the book of Acts. The church exploded all over the place because people used their gifts to engage the world.

Now, it's up to us.

Q. What did God teach you through the message this weekend?

Q. What is one step that you can take this week to either identify your gift or begin using it?

Q. How can this group help you with your step?

**Prayer:**

(Consider breaking up into small groups of 3 or 4, as couples, or as just men and just women)

We should pray that the church should strive for unity, that each member would use their gifts, and that we would engage the world.

Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?