



JULY 26, 2020

BIG SHIFTS

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Big Idea: There are four big paradigm shifts that must happen. Doing so will change your life. For the better. I'm not suggesting that church leaders should never do any direct ministry work themselves. Jesus did ministry work, but He did not only do ministry work. Most importantly, He equipped His disciples and they acted and proceeded to build the Church all over the world.

Jesus integrated the two together – ministry work and equipping. In everything Jesus did, He integrated equipping people. He did not separate ministry work from equipping – as we so often do – He did them both at the same time. Every time Jesus did ministry work, He equipped His disciples through it. His focus was building people and the ministry work provided the rich context and diverse opportunities to do so. There is no better way to equip people than in the midst of the ministry work.

Traditional Paradigm	New Testament Paradigm
1. Who builds the church?	
The leaders do the ministry work and the church is built up. The leaders build the church.	The people do the ministry work and the church is built up. The people build the church.
2. What is the role of the people of God?	
The people are needy objects and passive recipients of the leader's ministry.	The people actively function in the work of the ministry. God has good works prepared for all of us to do (Eph. 2:10), not just the leaders! We must honor the calling and ministry God has for all His people.
3. What is the role of the leader?	
The role of the leader is to do all the work of the ministry.	The role of the leader is to equip the people, build leaders, shape culture, and create an environment for the people to do the work of the ministry.
4. How is a healthy church built?	
Run effective ministry programs.	Build people.

The four facets of a healthy church member -

1. Grows in God
2. Reaches out
3. Serves others
4. Builds others

LifeGroup Worksheet

JULY 26, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference – **Ephesians 4:11-16** (+ the lessons below)

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled, or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Read- **Ephesians 4:11-16** carefully several times, *both with your group and alone.*

3. Engage and Explore- *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

a. There are three potential approaches to ministry in a local church:

1. **Leader-focused.** The leader does everything and everyone else watches. We are all passive recipients of the ministry work.
2. **Program-focused.** The leader establishes ministry programs and then tries to get people to run them.
3. **People-focused.** The leaders build life, equipping the people to function, and then oversee the ministries that naturally come out of that life.

Which is the biblical model? Which one have you historically wanted? What do you want now?

b. **Ministry programs provide the context in which the people can be built.** For example, in the feeding of the five thousand in John 6, Jesus knew what He was going to do and could have just done it Himself, but, instead, He gave that opportunity to Phillip and used it as a learning experience to equip His disciples deeply.

Q: What programs have you been involved in, at any church, that has helped for your walk with Christ?

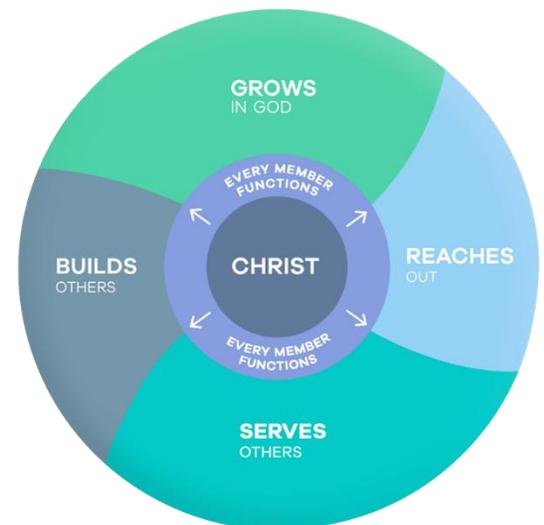
c. **Share how these ideas have impacted you and what this means to you.** Then let's pray for each other to become healthy and biblical in our thinking and ministry practice. Pray that God will help us to make the necessary shifts of thinking and practice.

4. Connect- *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. In the healthy church, every member functions every day. Why is that?
- b. We have seen that the one characteristic of a healthy church is that every member is functioning properly. And the role of the leaders is to equip the people and create the culture so that this happens. But what does it mean to "function properly"? What should every member do?

Discuss: the model. Does it make sense? Why or why not. What

Grow: "The Head, from whom the whole body...grows as God causes it to grow" (Colossians 2:19). "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3).



5. Silent Meditation- *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God's truth to your life.*

6. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

7. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook.*