



AUGUST 2, 2020

APEST – APOSTLE, PROPHET, EVANGELIST, PASTOR & TEACHER

Ephesians 4:11-13

Start by taking this survey: fivefoldsurvey.com¹

- 1. Apostle** is one who is “sent out.” Apostles are visionary and pioneering, always pushing into new territory. They like to establish new ministries. They come up with new, innovative means to do kingdom work.
 - **Biblical Example** – The Twelve, Paul, Priscilla and Aquilla.
 - **Jesus’ Example** – Jesus was the one sent by God (John 3:16).
 - **Mature Apostles** – Enjoy dreaming, doing new and challenging tasks, change.
 - **Secular Examples** – Entrepreneurs, explorers.
 - **Core Question Apostles Ask** – Are we leading the people of God to their destiny?
- 2. Prophet** is one who hears and listens to God. The prophet foretells and tells forth revelation from God. Often, they are able to stand back from circumstances to get a clear picture of what is happening and therefore see creative solutions and develop a vision for situations others don’t see. They understand the times and what people should do.
 - **Biblical Examples** – Anna and Simeon in Luke 2 as they prophesy over the infant Jesus. Agabus in Acts 11:28 and 21:10 when he predicts a famine and prophesies about Paul. Philip’s daughters in Acts 21:9 were all known as prophetesses.
 - **Jesus’ Example** – Every word spoken from the mouth of Jesus was a revelation from God. He often foretold events such as Peter’s denial and the details of his own death. He, himself, is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah such as found in Isaiah 53.
 - **Mature Prophets** – Enjoy being alone with God, waiting, listening.
 - **Secular Examples** – People who speak their perceptions, often creative types, musicians and artists.
 - **Core Question Prophets Ask** – Are the people of God hearing His voice and responding appropriately?
- 3. Evangelist** is one who brings good news and shares the message readily. Evangelists love spending time with non-Christians and often remind other Christians that there are non-Christians still out there in the world. They are not all like Billy Graham, they may be “people gatherers.” Evangelists know the Word and can make it relevant to non-Christians.
 - **Biblical Example** – Philip in Acts 8:12. The people believed Philip when he preached.
 - **Jesus’ Example** – Jesus embodied the Good News, He was the Good News. We see Him as an evangelist in John 3 with the Samaritan woman at the well.
 - **Mature Evangelists** – Enjoy discussion and sharing their point of view. Wherever they go, they draw others into discussion about Jesus and share with others regularly. They are passionate about sharing the Gospel and are not timid about their faith.
 - **Secular Examples** – Salesmen, politicians, public relations representatives.
 - **Core Question Evangelists Ask** – Are new people entering into the Kingdom of God?
- 4. Shepherd** is one who shepherds God’s people, who cares for others with a tender heart. One who sees needs, provides comfort and encourages others. Pastors spend most of their time with other Christians. They can easily empathize with others and exhibit lots of patience with those in need.
 - **Biblical Example** – Barnabas in Acts 15:36-41. Barnabas shows a pastoral heart in his defense of Mark.
 - **Jesus’ Example** – In John 10, Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd who has come to lead his people.
 - **Mature Shepherds** – Enjoy one-on-one chats and showing hospitality. They get burdened by others’ problems and have a knack for speaking truth in love. They are good listeners and are easy to talk to and share inner feelings with.
 - **Secular Examples** – Counselors, social workers, nurses and anyone in care-giving professions.
 - **Core Question Pastors Ask** – Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people?
- 5. Teachers** hold forth the truth and are excited by it. They look for ways to explain, enlighten and apply truth.
 - **Biblical Example** – Apollos in Acts 18.
 - **Jesus’ Example** – He was often referred to as Teacher or Rabbi. His “students” often remarked that His teaching was different because He taught with authority.
 - **Mature Teachers** – Enjoy reading and studying the Bible and helping others to understand it.
 - **Secular Examples** – Lecturers, trainers and school teachers.
 - **Core Question Teachers Ask** – Are the people of God immersing themselves in scripture and incarnating it?

¹ Copyrighted content and excerpted from *Building a Discipling Culture*

LifeGroup Worksheet

AUGUST 2, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference – **Ephesians 4:11-13**

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. Review- *LifeNotes on the flipped side of this page.*

3. Read- *Ephesians 4:11-23 carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

4. 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. H. Richard Niebuhr once noted: The great Christian revolutions came not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when someone takes radically something that was always there. How can seeing and talking about how you're a gift for the church as an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, or Teacher?
- b. Why is it so easy to be a spectator in the body of Christ? What does Paul want you to know here?
- c. The historical church has largely opted to exclude apostolic, prophetic and evangelistic frameworks and has viewed ministry through the now severely reduced categories of the pastor (shepherd) and the teacher (theologian). As a result, we have viewed the entire church, our purposes and our functions through a profoundly reduced perspective. **What have we lost that we're trying to recalibrate?**

5. 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. What did you learn from taking the "Five Fold Survey?" *Survey can be found at fivefoldsurvey.com.*
- b. Share what you believe to be the giftedness of each other.
- c. What did you learn about the church that conflicts with today's teaching? Was it Biblical?
- d. Where might you put some effort to use your gifts in a bigger way in the church and world?
- e. Imagine getting around your biggest roadblock as you use your gift. Tell the group about it.
- f. You are a gift to the church. Pray for each other's gifting.

6. 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.*

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

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