**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

* *What was the last conflict you found yourself in? How was the conflict resolved?*
* *We have all struggled with pride in some form or another. Often times it is difficult for us to see pride in ourselves, but very easy to spot in others. Can you think of a time when you were struggling with pride? When and how did you become aware that you were being prideful?*
* *Why do you think it’s easier to spot pride in others than in ourselves?*

**Disagreements and conflicts are a part of life, even in the church. Paul emphasized unity and humility because he knew we would be tempted to set ourselves up as “spiritual watch dogs” (checking up on other people’s behavior) or “pit bulls” (not letting go of a pet belief).**

**Start Digging : Read Matthew 7:1-5**

* *What insights do you find in Matthew 7:1-5 about how to avoid playing either the role of “spiritual watch dog” or the role of “pit bull” with other people?*
* *Have you ever experienced someone playing “spiritual watch dog” or “pit bull” in your life, judging you by their own views and beliefs? What happened in that situation and how did you respond/feel?*
* *As you look at your own life, can you think of times when you’ve made the mistake of playing either of these roles in other people’s lives?*

**In addition to Pride impacting our relationship with others, pride can also affect our relationship with God. Jesus illustrated this in a parable he told in Luke 18:9-14. Read the parable and then answer the questions below.**

* *How would you describe how each of these men related to God?*
* *If these men were a part of your Life Group, how do you think they’d relate to everyone else in the group?*
* *What do you think the relationship is between our humility toward God and our humility toward other people?*

**Digging Deeper**

* *What is one insight, observation, or truth that you are taking away from this study that you did not have previously?*
* *What is one intentional step that you will commit to taking this week as a result of what you have learned from this study?*

I LVE MY CHURCH

“Bear With One Another” | July 2nd , 2017

LOVE THE CHURCH YOU HAVE, NOT THE CHURCH YOU HOPE IT WILL BECOME

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

**HOW TO GET ALONG WHEN WE ARE**

**NOT GETTING ALONG?**

**“Bear With One Another” =** *To Endure, put up with, be patient with, making allowance for others faults*

**UNITY IN THE CHURCH IS…**

* **A REQUIREMENT, NOT AN OPTION**

**John 17:20-21 (ESV)***20“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* *22The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

* **NEVER EASY**

**Ephesians 4:3(NIV)***Make every effort to keep the unity*

**Romans 12:18(ESV)** *8If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

* **MAINTAINED NOT CREATED**

**WHY CAN'T WE GET ALONG?**

* PRIDE
* GIFT PROJECTION
* SELFISHNESS
* IMPATIENCE

**THREE STEPS TO UNITY**

1. HUMILITY

**Romans 12:3 (ESV)***3For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

1. GENTLENESS

***Proverbs 15:4 (ESV)****4A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it*

*breaks the spirit.*

1. **PATIENCE**

**Proverbs 19:11(NIV)** *11A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.*