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# VIRTUAL CAMP BIBLE STUDIES

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**IMPACT**  
MISSION CAMPS

We live in a divisive world that prioritizes power over service. Whether we are reading news headlines or scrolling through social media, we can't help but be bombarded with "us" versus "them" language. This year's theme at Impact is "Better Together." Participants will consider what it looks like to work together as the Body of Christ to make a kingdom impact in our world.



"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

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# PREPARING THE SPACE

As you prepare for this study series, consider how you might set up your space. Aside from Bibles and specific materials for each study, think about how you might encourage learning for your specific group. This study will focus on the five ministry roles outlined in the Scripture passage, often called the five-fold gifts or ministries. **Prior to the study, create a visual reminder of each ministry type (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher) to have out throughout the series.** Here are some ideas to do that:

1. Hang a large sheet of bulletin board paper or a large poster board and create a graphic organizer with each word. Add descriptions under each heading as you learn about the five-fold ministries.
2. Lay out five objects on a table in the room to represent the five types. Have students write about each type on a sticky note and place by the object that corresponds with the type.
3. Have students trace their hand and write a type on each finger. Have them hold on to this each week to write notes on as they learn.

This study is about working together as a group to make a kingdom impact. **As you prepare your space and go through the Bible study, delegate different roles to your youth.** This will allow them to begin to think about their own role as a part of your group, Impact camp, and the Body of Christ. You know your group best, so here are some basic ideas for engaging youth throughout the process. Feel free to tailor tasks to their interests and abilities.

1. Youth could take turns helping you set up each week.
2. Empower someone to create an appropriate music playlist to share with the group that fits the theme. The music could be played before and after the study or shared in a format like Spotify so that the group can listen to it throughout the week.
3. Ask someone to pray or read the Scripture passage each week.
4. Youth could take turns bringing snacks for the group.
5. Pair youth who have gone to Impact before with those who have never been. Have them talk about what camp is like and answer questions. Challenge them to encourage and pray for one another throughout their time at Impact.

# MATERIALS LIST

## SESSION ONE

Dry spaghetti noodles, mini marshmallows, index cards or paper, pencils or pens

## SESSION TWO

Paper, crayons, markers, pencils, tape (to hang artwork), copies of the Lord's Prayer or an ability to project it on the wall

## SESSION THREE

In this session, youth will be working together to make soup for their community. A basic vegetable soup recipe is included below. Youth can bring ingredients, or you can buy the ingredients. Aside from soup ingredients, you will need a pot or pots to cook the soup in and take out containers for the soup, ideally one container per youth. Plastic containers can be purchased for a low cost at Walmart. You will also need blank cards or paper for the youth to write notes of encouragement to those who will be receiving the soup.

### Vegetable Soup (serves six)

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups v8 juice
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 tomatoes diced
- 1 large potato, diced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 cup green beans
- 1 cup peas
- 1 cup corn
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large stock pot add the olive oil over medium heat and sauté the onions and celery for 4-5 minutes until translucent before adding in the rest of the ingredients and bringing to a boil, then reducing to a simmer for 30 minutes.

## SESSION FOUR

Construction paper and markers

# SESSION ONE

## LEADER PREPARATION

The Scripture passage focuses on the five-fold ministry teaching. At the end of the studies, you will find a resource list. This list will have more material that you can use to dive deeper into the five-fold ministry teaching. Prior to the study, you can encourage youth and chaperones to take a five-fold ministry quiz and record their results. This may be helpful as you go through the study to understand your group better. The quiz website can be found in the resource list.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Ephesians 4:11-12

## ABOUT THE TEXT

Church tradition points to Paul as the author of this text. Ephesians follows the structure of other Pauline letters: theological doctrine and then instruction for the Christian life. What sets Ephesians apart “is that the Introduction and first part is presented in the mode of worship” (Boring and Craddock, 595). The focus of our study will be on the second part of the letter. The instructions for the Christian life in this section focuses on the context of life in the church instead of an individualistic approach (606).

As we study Scripture, it is important to look at what is happening before and after our specific passage. We will focus on verses 11 in the study series, but let’s look at some interesting aspects of the surrounding verses. Prior to our passage, Paul talks about the “unity of the Spirit” (Eph 4:3). This unity is given by the Holy Spirit, and as Christians, we are called to preserve and live out unity within the larger Body of Christ. (606) Verse seven talks about “grace” that members of the church are given. In this context, “grace” also means that within the Body of Christ, we are given a variety of gifts.

Our focus verse for Impact is verse eleven. This verse talks about the five gifts, often called five-fold ministries, that are given. The gifts in this verse are different from the gifts in verse seven. In verse seven, Paul talks about the gifts given to each member. In verse eleven, the “ministers are gifts of the risen Christ to the whole church” (607). We will talk about each gift in more detail throughout the study series. After verse eleven, the focus continues to be on unity within the Body of Christ. This focus is not just about a specific congregation, but how all Christians relate to one another. Verse fifteen reminds us that we should focus on truth and love. As we complete these studies, youth will think about what acting in unity, truth, and love might look like at Impact and in their communities.

(Source: *The People’s New Testament Commentary* by M. Eugene Boring and Fred B. Craddock)

## OPENING ACTIVITY

Divide your group into teams. Give each group dry spaghetti noodles and mini marshmallows. Tell each group that they are to work together to build a tower out of only spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. Each member of the group must have a role in the building project. They can assign a leader, designer, materials coordinator, and builders. They may choose to create their own roles. What is most important is that everyone is involved in some way. Once you explain the project, set an allotment of time for them to complete the tower.

## DISCUSSION

Once the youth have finished, discuss the following questions within the larger group:

- What was the hardest thing about this project?
- Was it difficult to assign a role to every person in the group?
- What was your role? How did that role help the group finish the project?

## LEADER

Explain the theme of Impact to the group (Better Together), and have them open their Bibles to Ephesians 4. As they do that, feel free to include some background information about Ephesians that can be found at the beginning of this session.

## SCRIPTURE

Divide youth into smaller groups or pairs, depending on your group size. Have each pair/group read Ephesians 4:11-12. On a piece of paper or index card, have each group list the five ministries: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. After they read the text, have groups brainstorm definitions for each category without the use of their smart phones or other aid.

## DISCUSSION

On a dry erase board or large sheet of paper, write out phrases and definitions of each category that the groups came up with during the exercise. Then ask the following:

- Did any of these ministries stand out to you as we were discussing them?
- Do you think that these five ministries are still important to the church today?
- Do you think that one ministry is more important than the others?

## FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY OVERVIEW

As stated in the background information, these five ministries differ from spiritual gifts. It's helpful to think of these five ministries as DNA. Each person usually has one primary and one secondary ministry. God, the Creator, has woven these characteristics throughout humanity. It is like DNA in that this "wiring" is present with us early on in our life. It is who we are, and we are to use our unique "wiring" sequence to minister to others. We can see these characteristics in the world, but our focus will be to look to Jesus. His example will show us how to best live into our ministry role and be an active part of the church and its mission.

As we begin to explain each category, we will see that they may differ in your original view of what they might mean. Pastor may not be a person who is ministering strictly in a church setting. Evangelist may not mean someone who is knocking on doors. As humans, we are prone to think that one thing may be a "better" or more "attractive" ministry title to have. One ministry isn't more important than the other. One ministry isn't reserved for a specific gender or educational level. Each of the five is to work together. All are invited to tap into who God created them to be and join in with what God is already doing in our world. All are needed in the church.

## TEACHING POINTS FOR FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY OVERVIEW

- God has given ministry roles to us all, and we are invited to use them to glorify God in the world.
- Each ministry is needed in the church. One is not more important than the other.

The first ministry role that we will learn about is teacher.

## LEARNING ACTIVITY: TEACHER – *thinker and guide*

Depending on your time, have one or two youth volunteer to "teach" something to the group. It can be part of a viral dance from Tik Tok. It could be how to fold a paper airplane. Perhaps it's how to say something in Spanish. Tell them to keep it simple, keep it appropriate, and keep it fun!

**In the world...** Throughout history, we see teachers in philosophers, mentors, researchers, and theologians (just to name a few). They are critical thinkers who can be oriented toward the past. We may see them in education, history, and scientific fields. Some non-Christian examples may be Yoda, Plato, Stephen Hawking, and Albert Einstein. Ask youth to come up with a few more examples of teachers in society.

**Jesus' example...** We see examples of Jesus as teacher throughout the Gospels. He taught with authority, and he also explained what it looked like to follow him with parables that all could understand.

**Read:** Luke 2:41-52

### DISCUSSION

- What teacher characteristics do you see in Jesus in this story?
- How might Jesus' example throughout his ministry show us what it looks like to be a teacher in the church?

In the Church...teachers show wisdom and a love for Scripture. They build a culture of learning. They may develop resources for helping others to understand God.

### CLOSING

Have youth write out the definition of teacher or other notes from the study in the visual teaching aid that you created at the beginning of the study (see: preparing the space). *Do they know someone at the church who might be a teacher? What makes them think that?*

### PRAYER

Ask for a volunteer to close in prayer.



# SESSION TWO

## OPENING ACTIVITY

Lay out sheets of paper, crayons, markers, and pencils. Have youth draw a self-portrait. When they are finished, have them lay their portrait to the side. It will be used at the end of this session.

## SCRIPTURE

Ask everyone stand. Ask those who are right-handed to read Eph 4:11. Ask those who are left-handed to read Eph 4:12.

## LEADER

Take a few minutes to review the previous session. Point to the visual representation of “teacher” that you created at the beginning of the study, and have the youth quickly talk about that ministry role. This session will focus on two more ministry roles-apostle and prophet.

## LEARNING ACTIVITY: APOSTLE – *one who is sent*

Divide students into two groups. Each group must quietly agree on what they think is the best children’s book of all time. Once they have agreed, have them designate one person to go to the other team and act out the book title. They can’t use any words! Count to three, and at the same time, each group’s designee will go to the other team and begin acting out the title. Each team will try to be the first to guess the title.

## DISCUSSION

After the activity, discuss the following questions with the group:

- To those who were told to go to the other group: Were you excited to have that role? Was it difficult to get the message across?
- To the other group members: Why did you all choose this specific person for the role?

**In the world...**Apostles are in the world as adventurers and visionaries. They may be imagineers or designers. They are future-oriented, creative, and strategic. We may see them as entrepreneurs, politicians, or architects. Examples from our world are Steve Jobs, Lewis and Clark, and George Washington. **Have youth talk about other examples of apostles in the world.**

**Jesus’ example...**Jesus was the ultimate “Sent One” because he was sent by God! Jesus “reframed how God could be experienced and accessed; he extended the boundaries of God’s kingdom on earth and initiated a worldwide movement” (Activating 5Q: A Users Guide, 46).

**Read:** John 3:16-21

### DISCUSSION

- Why do you think this passage of Scripture was chosen?
- What kind of roles do you imagine that apostles would have in the church?

**In the Church...** We see apostles working to keep the church focused on the church's mission and maintaining the bigger vision of what it means to be the church. They are drawn to entrepreneurship and can be found as church planters and cross-cultural missionaries.

### LEARNING ACTIVITY: PROPHET – *seer and reformer*

Prior to the session, draw a simple house and yard on a piece of paper. Don't make it too complicated. Perhaps just a few flowers or a tree by the rectangular home. Choose one person to be the activity leader. They will be asked to explain the drawing to the rest of the group, but they cannot show the group what the picture looks like. Give each group member a piece of paper and crayons so that they can try to replicate the picture only using the activity leader's instructions.

### DISCUSSION

- Was it difficult not seeing the picture?
- Did your picture look like the activity leader's picture?
- Activity leader, was it difficult for you to explain the drawing to the others?

**In the world...** We see prophets in our world as artists and advocates. They are passionate and principled. Examples of prophets in our world are Bono, Picasso, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Have youth name other examples from the world.

**Jesus' example...** Jesus focused on teaching us what faithfulness to God looks like. He spoke out against injustice and spoke truth.

**Read:** Matthew 21:12-13

### DISCUSSION

- What's happening in this passage?
- How is this reflective of the prophet ministry?
- Where might we see prophets in the church?

**In the Church...** Prophets in the church help us to maintain our focus on God. They give insight and proclaim the Word. They may be worship leaders and question the status quo.

### **CLOSING ACTIVITY**

Have youth hold their self-portrait and take a few moments to look at think about who God has created them to be. Remind youth that we are all uniquely created by God, but our faith is not just an individual journey. We are to work together, as the church, to share God's love with the world. Play some music and prompt the youth to hang their picture on the wall when they are ready. Give the youth tape beforehand or have it by the wall. Help the youth position the pictures beside each other, so that at the end of the activity, all the individual pictures will be together on the wall as a collage.

### **PRAYER**

End the session collectively saying the Lord's Prayer. You may need to have copies available or project the prayer on a screen for those who don't know it.

# SESSION THREE

## SESSION DETAILS

In this session, you will be making soup. While the soup cooks, you will complete the study. At the end of the study, you will divide the soup among the youth. They will take a container of the soup out into the community. A simple vegetable soup recipe is provided in the materials list, but feel free to be a creative as you would like. You may want to recruit a few adult volunteers to help. You can buy the ingredients ahead of time and just have youth take turns adding ingredients. You could also have youth bring items to contribute. It depends on your group size and context. You may want to let parents know ahead of time that their youth will be bringing home soup to give to someone in their neighborhood or community. If you want to make it a group effort, you could go together to deliver the soup to community members after the study.

## OPENING ACTIVITY

Since we are making soup, have youth find a partner and discuss the following question: *What is the best meal that you have ever eaten?*

## SCRIPTURE

Have a volunteer read Ephesians 4:11-12.

## REVIEW

Take a few minutes to review the three ministries that were previously discussed: teacher, apostle, and prophet.

## LEARNING ACTIVITY: EVANGELIST – *recruiter and communicator*

Have youth form groups of three or more. Give them the task of creating a thirty second video that shares why they love being a part of the youth ministry.

## DISCUSSION

- What are some reasons that you gave for why you love being a part of the youth group?
- Do you feel comfortable inviting your friends to church? Why or why not?
- What could you do to make your youth ministry more inviting to others?

**In the world...**We see evangelists as relational storytellers. They may be company recruiters, organizers, motivational speakers, and sales representatives. Some examples are Malcolm Gladwell, Oprah Winfrey, and Tony Robbins. Have youth name other examples.

**Jesus' example...**Jesus shared the good news of the Gospel. He was traveling and spending time with many different people. He is the ultimate evangelist!

**Read:** Matthew 4:23

### DISCUSSION

- How does this passage show Jesus as an example of evangelist?
- When you hear the word evangelist, what comes to mind?
- What might it look like in the church to be an evangelist?

**In the Church...**Evangelists can serve in many different roles. We see them as apologists, communicators. They may serve in the church on an outreach team, and they are comfortable spending time with people who aren't Christian.

### LEARNING ACTIVITY: PASTOR – *cares and creates community*

Have youth sit in a circle. One youth will stand up and say something about themselves. If the youth's statement resonates with any of the other youth, those youth must quickly stand up and yell, "That's me!" (ex. I have brown hair. I'm in 9th grade. I'm in band. I like playing video games.) This can get loud as multiple youth stand up and yell. Leader will point to another youth, who will stand and say something about themselves...etc. Let this continue for a few minutes or until everyone has said something, depending on your group size.

### DISCUSSION

- Who learned something interesting about another person?
- What did it feel like to have others stand up and agree with your statement?
- What did it feel like to yell out, "That's me!"

**In the world...**Pastors are communal, caring, and protective. We see pastors in the world as counselors, doctors, police officers, first responders, and human resource officers. Examples are Nelson Mandela, Chris Kyle, and Malala Yousafzai. Invite youth to give other examples in the world.

**Jesus' example...**We call Jesus the Great Shepherd. He included those on the outskirts to be a part. He was a healer, and he showed concern for others.

**Read:** Matthew 15:29-39

### DISCUSSION

- Why was this specific passage chosen to represent pastor?
- What are some other moments in Scripture when Jesus was caring for others?

**In the Church...**In the context of the church, we obviously see pastors as examples of Shepherd, but that isn't all! We also see them as counselors, spiritual directors, hospital visitors, and deacons.

### REVIEW

You have finished exploring all five types. Have youth quickly review the types. Ask these questions before the closing activity: How will understanding these five ministry roles prepare us to take part in mission work at Impact? Now that you know about each type, do you feel that one ministry role is more important than the other?

### CLOSING ACTIVITY

Pass out note cards and pens. Remind the youth that they have been cooking soup during this study. Each ingredient has come together to create something delicious. Yes, the vegetables are good on their own, but when put together, they become even more filling. Like the soup ingredients, each youth brings something important to your group. Each person can be impactful, but together, you can do so much! Have each youth think about who they encounter each week. Instruct youth to pick one person to encourage and care for by bringing soup to them either that day or the next. Once they have chosen a person, give them a few minutes to write that person a note of encouragement to put with the soup.

### PRAYER

Lord, just as the individual ingredients create a nourishing soup, we can work together to accomplish big things for your kingdom. Bless the individuals that we are caring for and encouraging through our meal delivery. Help us to see the needs in our community and be your representatives in the world. Amen

# SESSION FOUR

## SESSION DETAILS

In this session, youth will have a time of worship centered around the theme, Better Together. Because our theme explores how we can work together, consider including others in this worship experience. You could invite families and church members to join you in a time of worship and commissioning.

You will be given a worship outline with song and reading suggestions. Feel free to make changes that best reflect your context. You will need to set up colorful paper and markers around the room in a few spots for the time of response. Feel free to find pictures or a map of where you are headed for Impact Mission Camp to display on a screen or around the room before worship begins.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Invitation to Worship*

Sing together: "Holy Spirit" by Brian and Katie Torwalt

Call and Response: (A reading from Psalm 86)

LEADER: Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness;

ALL: give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

LEADER: I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;

ALL: I will glorify your name forever.

### *Thanksgiving and Praise*

Prayer

Sing Together: "Holy, Holy, Holy" or "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Time of Praise: This is a time for those in attendance to offer up a word of praise or thanksgiving to God.

### *Scripture Meditation*

Read: Ephesians 4:11-13

Homily: This is a space for you to prepare some encouraging thoughts for those who will be attending Impact Mission Camp that are centered around the theme and passage of Scripture.

Our Creator God has formed us in specific ways that can be used to glorify God through our lives. We are not just individuals on a journey; we have been given the Church so that we may work together and join in with what God is already doing. Impact is a way to do just that. It is a week to grow in one's relationship with Christ, strengthen bonds with others, and ignite a passion to continue to serve in our world. You can also encourage several of your students to share during this time.

### ***Time of Response***

Prayer

Reading:

Reader 1: We see throughout Scripture that Jesus is the perfect example of apostle,

Reader 2: the sent one-God's perfect Son.

Reader 1: Jesus is the supreme prophet-

Reader 2: bringing truth and light to the world.

Reader 1: Jesus is our model evangelist.

Reader 2: Our Savior invites us to follow him.

Reader 1: He is the great Shepherd.

Reader 2: We, his sheep, know his voice.

Reader 1: Jesus, Rabbi, teach us-

Reader 1 and Reader 2: You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Response: Have colorful paper and markers set up in a few places around the room. While music plays, invite everyone to trace one hand on the paper as they consider their role in the Body of Christ. When they have traced their hand, have them place the sheet of paper at the front of the room and return to their seats. (After the worship service, cut out the hands and put them on the wall in your youth room in the form of a cross.)

Song suggestions for time of response: "Respond" by Travis Greene, "Make Room" by Jonathan McReynolds, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus", or "By Our Love" by Christy Nockels

### ***Commissioning***

Leader: After the time of response, ask attendees to hold hands or link arms with the person who is beside them.

Prayer of Commissioning: Have a time of prayer to ask for God's provision, open hearts, and opportunities to serve while at Impact Mission Camp.

Sing: "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"



# STUDY RESOURCES

Boring, M. Eugene and Fred B. Craddock. *The People's New Testament Commentary*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Hirsch, Alan. *5Q*. Columbia: 100 Movements, 2017.

Hirsch, Alan and Jessie Cruickshank. *Activating 5Q*. Columbia: 100 Movements, 2018.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ABOUT THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRIES

### Five-fold Ministry Quiz:

<http://www.fivefoldsurvey.com/>

### Podcast:

*Lead Stories Podcast* with Jo Saxon and Pastor Steph O'Brien ([www.leadstoriespodcast.com](http://www.leadstoriespodcast.com))

- S07 Episode 11- The Shepherd
- S07 Episode 12- The Teacher
- S07 Episode 13-The Evangelist
- S07 Episode 14-The Apostle
- S07 Episode 15- The Prophet