

## Week 4 – Mutuality

COACHING VIDEO: [bit.ly/FCWeek4](https://bit.ly/FCWeek4)

### Introduction (15 min)

#### DEBRIEF THE WEEK (5 min)

Last week, we talked about radical inclusion and how to be intentionally welcoming to all.

**Share in pairs:** Debrief collective and personal action steps. What did you do in your gathering, and what impact did it have?

#### VISION + OBJECTIVE (1 min)

Access and equity in the flourishing community are not based on ability or influence, but in mutual self-giving, where everyone's joys as well as pains are shared. Mutuality leads to unity.

#### ICE BREAKER (9 min)

Discuss examples of mutuality. Where you have seen deep commitment and both joys and pains shared in a relationship or community? Consider personal examples, movies, or books.

Pray to transition.

### Biblical Reflection (20 min)

#### PASSAGE INTRO / BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>

- Corinth: A prosperous port city that was culturally diverse with huge disparities between the wealthy and the poor.
- Paul's letter to the church addresses status and class issues. The gifts and skills valued in the church were based on what their culture valued. The goal was for unity through mutuality.

#### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-28

##### Observation:

- What stands out about the metaphor Paul uses for the church? What is repeated?
- What should be uniting their community?

##### Interpretation:

- Why might this call to unity be challenging for the Corinthian church? What are the

implications, and what barriers might this community have to address or overcome?

- What is at stake? Why is this message of unity important for the church?

#### Application & Listening Prayer:

- What does it teach us about the difference between diversity and unity?
- How is God speaking to you and inviting you to respond?

### Response (30 min)

#### ACTIVITY (20 min)

**Fellowship Assessment<sup>2</sup>:** Honest acknowledgment of disparities within the community is necessary for true mutuality. As a group, use these questions to help you assess your fellowship's dynamics:

- Who are perceived to be "insiders" vs. "outsiders" of the fellowship? Why?
- Who has decision-making power? How are decision-makers chosen?
- Who *actually* shares life together? Who shares secrets? Are you close enough to tell each other hard truths?
- What gifts or skills tend to be honored or celebrated in your community? Which go unnoticed or seem to be less valued? (Consider other angles as well, such as gender or personality types.)

**Discuss:** In light of the assessment, what barriers or opportunities exist for your community to truly practice mutuality? What would have to continue or change in order for there to be a culture of sharing one another's joys and pains?

#### ACTION STEPS (5 min)

- **Collective:** Write notes of gratitude or encouragement to those who are often overlooked or unnoticed in your fellowship.
- **Personal:** Say "yes" to how God is inviting you to respond to Luke 10.

#### PRAYER (5 min)

<sup>1</sup> IVP Bible Background Commentary – New Testament, Craig S. Keener, 787

<sup>2</sup> Questions adapted from Alexia Salvatierra's Courageous Assessment Metrics of Power Dynamics