

LIVE

Protecting Unity 1: Acting in love towards other members



Love

(Use worship at whichever part of the evening works best for your group).
Use the music to sing with, or to listen to, in helping you worship God.
Try to focus on the love of God.



Live

What role model do you have (apart from Jesus) of what love in action looks like?



Grow

Read John 13 v1–17

This is familiar passage and is easy to pass over. Use any of the following to help you as a group to discuss what this passage means to us today.

- 1) What do you think about when you read this passage as a whole?
- 2) What do you think about what Jesus was doing?
- 3) Although it is sometimes easy to glibly say what the message in this passage is, how do you think it applies to you, to me, to us, specifically today?
- 4) How does this passage affect you?



Live

Where are the areas in our church or in our own individual lives where we find it difficult in acting in love towards other members (without naming names). Are there certain members of our fellowship who we do not find it easy to act in love towards? Why is this? What can we do?

Is there anything we can do as individuals to help us all to act in love towards each other more?

Being positive, think about ways we as a group have acted in love to each other in the past, or are doing now (be encouraged about what we are doing).



Build

What are the benefits of a church where we act in love towards each other in helping us reach out to those who are not yet Christians?

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for the good things in our church, and also praying for ourselves to help us to act in love towards each other.

LIVE

Protecting Unity 2: Avoiding Gossip and Resolving Conflict



Love

(Use worship at whichever part of the evening works best for your group)
Use the music to sing with, to or listen to, in helping you worship God.
Try this week to focus on His unending forgiveness.



Live

Are we good at keeping secrets?
What kind of secrets do we find particularly hard to keep?



Grow

Read Ephesians 4 v17–29.

1. First thoughts and reactions to this passage as a whole or of any specific parts?
2. Being completely honest, why do we find verses 25 and 26 difficult? What about those little white lies? Have we ever found ourselves making an excuse when we haven't done something we said we would do rather than just admitting we have not done it (speak the truth).
3. What about not letting the sun go down on our anger (resolving conflict). Do we resolve conflict, or do try to avoid it (is this wrong?)
4. Verse 29 has two parts:
 - a. No unwholesome talk to come from us
 - b. Only say what is helpful and benefits those who listen

Which of these do we find the easiest or most difficult to do? Think about how it makes you feel when somebody says something that builds you up.



Live

Practically, what can we do to avoid gossip (what is the difference in a church setting between gossip and “sharing”?) Do we ever drift from sharing into gossip?

What do we do when we come across gossip (tackling it creates conflict), what can we do?

Are any of us currently struggling with conflict of any sort?

Prayer

Use this time to pray for areas where there may be conflict in the church, or where conflict may arise, pray for each other on how to deal with conflict, and how to avoid gossip.

Give thanks for all those occasions when the things people have said have had a positive effect. Give thanks for any people you know within the church who are already doing this.

LIVE

Protecting Unity 3: Supporting Leaders



Love

(Use worship at whichever part of the evening works best for your group).
Use the music to sing with, to or listen to, in helping you worship God.
Try this week to focus on praising God for who he is and that he reigns over us.



Live

Who has been the best leader in your life? (This could be a teacher, a boss, a youth group leader etc)



Grow

Read Hebrews 13 v7-18 (focusing on verses 7-9 and 17-18).

1. Remembering what we have been talking about in previous weeks, what is your honest response to reading this passage about how we should behave towards our leaders?
2. Discuss the responsibilities leaders have towards us, and our responsibilities towards our leaders.
3. Why do you think the author of this letter urges us to pray for them (v 18).



Live

1. What would the consequences be within the church if we did not support our leaders?
2. Are there any practical ways that we can support our leaders within the church?
3. What impact on the work of the church in the outside community is there if we either support our leaders or do not support them?

Prayer

Spend some time praying for the different leaders in our Church