

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

OCTOBER 11

"THE GOOD NEWS IS..."
EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Scripture References

- **Ephesians 4:1-16**

Quick Re-Cap

Have you ever felt like it wouldn't matter if you stayed home, like nobody would even notice you were gone? Lots of people feel that way, even grown-ups. But the Bible says the opposite: every single person who follows Jesus has a part to play, and it matters forever. The apostle Paul wrote this letter while he was chained up in a Roman prison, and instead of complaining, he spent most of his writing just gushing about how amazing Jesus is. Then he says the word "therefore", which really means "because of all that." Because Jesus is everything, Paul urges us to "walk in a way that's worthy" of being called God's family. And here's the key. We don't live that way so God will love us. **We live that way because He already does.** We can't earn God. We can't deserve Him. The Gospel is a gift. Walking worthy looks like being humble, gentle, and patient. The old King James Bible calls patience "long-suffering," which one early church leader described as having the power to get revenge, but never using it. That's exactly how God treats us, and He asks us to treat each other the same way. Paul says Jesus already made His church one family, so our job isn't to create unity. **It's to protect it.** We can like different things and look different and still be one body with one Lord and one faith. Then he says Jesus gives every person a gift, not based on how talented or great we are, so there's no reason to compare ourselves or be jealous. Some people are given the job of leading, like pastors and teachers, but their job isn't to do all the work. It's to "equip" everyone else. That Greek word was also used to mean mending a fisherman's torn net or setting a broken bone. It was up close and hands-on, putting something back together so it can work again. **When every part of the body does its part, the whole church grows stronger in love.**

Illustration

Imagine your soccer team has a big game on Saturday. You've got the striker who scores the goals, the defenders who stop the other team, and the goalie who dives for every shot. Now imagine you're the kid who plays a quieter position, and you start thinking, "I'm not the star. If I stay home, nobody will even notice." So you skip the game. But when the game starts, there's a gap on the field, and the other team runs right through it. **Every position matters, because the team only works when everybody is playing theirs.** Now think about the coach. A good coach doesn't run out and play the whole game by himself. His job is to train every player, fix their mistakes, and help them get better at their spot. That's what Jesus' leaders do in the church. Jesus handed out all the positions as gifts. You don't have to be the star, and you don't have to compete with the person next to you. You just have to show up and play the part He gave you.

Application

This week, let's ask Jesus to show us our part to play. Pray together and say "Jesus, what gift have You given me, and how can I use it to help Your church?" Then pick one real way to serve this week, like helping a younger kid, greeting someone new, encouraging a friend, or helping with something at church. When you're tempted to compare yourself to someone else, remember that the gift came from Jesus, so the right response is "thank You," not jealousy. If you ever feel worn out from trying to do everything, remember we serve because God already loves us, not to make Him love us more.

Convo Starters

- **Have you ever felt like it wouldn't matter if you weren't there? Why do you think we sometimes feel that way?**
- **Why do you think Paul says we serve because God already loves us, instead of so that He will love us?**
- **What is one thing you're good at, or one way you like to help, that could be your "part to play" in our church?**