

Weekly 4G Guide

CBC

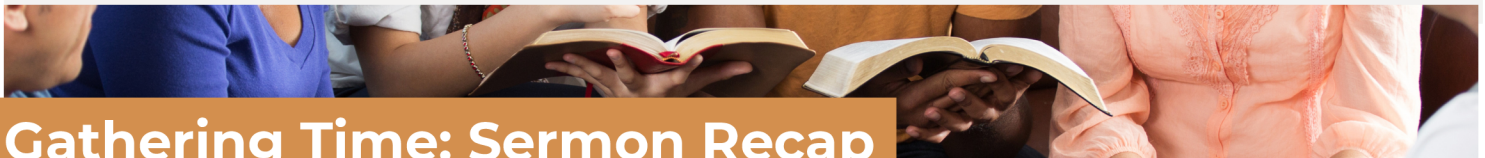
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

If We Will: Choose Unity

Today, Pastor Dan Busse preached the next sermon in the series *If We Will*. Today's sermon focused on unity and was based on John 17:20-23 and Philippians 1:27 and 2:1-5.

When Jesus prayed the High Priestly Prayer in John 17, He asked the Father to unite those who believe in Him so that we would be one, just as He is one with the Father.

Unity is a mark of a God-soaked church. When we first believe, Christ secures our unity in Himself, but we can grow to be increasingly more unified by not struggling against Him. This unity shows the world that God is real. It also shows that we are His!

But how do we learn to walk better in the unity that Christ has secured? Philippians 2 helps us learn. There, Paul tells us to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus. To do this, we need His help! Thankfully, upon salvation, Jesus makes us new creations. Before knowing Him, we were spiritually dead in our sins. But He makes us alive! When we see His

work in our lives, He gives us the desire to extend that work and blessing to others.

It is the Holy Spirit who connects us in unity. The Spirit also gives the fruit that is evident in the lives of those in God's church. While we are united, we are not uniform. God uses our different ages, stories, backgrounds, and cultures as a witness to His love. He unites us despite our differences, and this creates greater ability for the church to witness and minister. We can share this gospel to all peoples!

Only in Jesus can we do this. When we are intent on His purposes, we remain humble, submitting to Him. Without humble unity, conceit and pride may creep in. This zaps our effectiveness!

If we want to choose unity and experience God, we must focus on Him. Recentering our focus and submitting to Christ will deepen our unity and grow our witness to those around us! Are you setting your focus on the Lord?

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: Do you know a “prayer warrior”? What do you admire about their faith?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the main point of the passage that was discussed in today's sermon?
- What is the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of the passage?
- Does the passage contain truths, promises, or commands to obey? What are they? As a group, make a list and pray for your hearts to align with God's Word.
- **Track 2:** How do you think most non-Believers would define religious unity?
- How might disunity in the Church hurt our witness? How might non-Believers respond when they see Christians in disunity?
- What can Christians do to promote a healthy view of unity?
- **Track 3:** Dan said, “Unity is a mark of a God-soaked church.” What did he mean?
- Discuss the difference between unity and uniformity. What is the purpose of unity?
- If we are already united in Christ, why is there disunity in the church? How do we fix disunity?

God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Jn 17:20-23. What and who is Jesus praying for? Mark anything that stands out. Thank God for praying for you.
- **Tuesday:** Read Php 1:27. What did Paul hope to hear about? How is this similar to what Jesus prayed? (See Monday.)
- **Wednesday:** Read Php 2:1. Paul says, “If there is any...” What are the things he then mentions? Is there “any” of those things in the Christian faith?
- **Thursday:** Read Php 2:2-3. Since the things in 2:1 are true, then how should Christians be, according to 2:2-3? What do you need to pray about or do in response?
- **Friday:** Read Php 2:4-5. (Read further if you'd like!) Why should we be humble? Who are we modeling? Pray that God would help you be a humble witness!

God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** Php 2:1-5 from today's sermon from the Easy-to-Read version.
- Give a **summary** statement about the sermon and the Bible passage in a way that your family can easily understand.
- **Ask:** How would you feel if others only cared about themselves and not you?
- **Say:** God unites Christians; He wants us to care about others and get along!
- **Activity:** Have microwavable popcorn this week. Before you put it in the microwave, tell how all the kernels are unique, but tidy and contained, united in one pouch. When the corn starts to pop, explain that each kernel is going its own way, exploding in disunified, random chaos, creating a lot of noise. Once the popcorn is finished popping, tell how the corn is unified again—each kernel calm and united in your bowl! Now, enjoy eating it together!

Give: How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?