

## Unity Week 1- Discussion Guide

### Connect

**Main Idea:** We are challenged over and over again in the pages of the Bible with a truth that we can't avoid: one of the greatest examples of God's love is how we walk in unity.

**Introduction:** This weekend, Pastor Chris talked about unity. Just like concrete, relationships can crack. We experience disunity in almost every aspect of our lives. The secret to unity is similar to the process of curing concrete. This is done by allowing Jesus to "cure" or heal our relationships.

**Discussion Starter:** Pastor Chris told a story about mixing concrete. He mentioned mixing all the ingredients then allowing the mixture to cure. How can we apply this to our lives in order to create unity on a personal level?

### Grow

**Primary Scripture:** John 17:1-26, Matthew 12:25, 1 John 4:20, and John 8:44

### Discussion Questions:

1. Read John 17:1-26 In this prayer, Jesus prays for all of those who are in Him to be unified. Pastor Chris points out that "God's will for each of us is to be one. What God loves the devil hates. What God wants the devil fights. Division is a device of the devil." How does the enemy try to divide us?
  - a. In verse 23, Jesus prays for perfect unity. How is this accomplished?
2. In Matthew 12:25, Jesus said; "A kingdom divided can't stand..." We can all agree the Big C Church is divided. How is the Church being divided today?
3. What can we as a church do to overcome the division of the Church?
4. Read 1 John 4:20. Pastor Chris asked some questions about what we read on social media: Why do we want to believe the worst? Why do we read and laugh? Why do we delight in the division? Discuss these questions.
5. Ask yourself truthfully: am I adding to disunity or unity in my life and church?
6. Read John 8:44 about the "father of lies." "While division is natural, unity is supernatural. While we hammer away at each in hatred and division, we pave the way for people who are hell bound to fall through the cracks." Who do you know that is falling through the cracks because of disunity?

### Protect

Pray for unity in the Church, our homes, and our nation. Pray for those in our lives who are lost and don't know Jesus.