



## 9-10-17 Sermon Discussion Guide "Game On: Players"



### **Context**

Our Christian Education theme for year is "Game On!" We are encouraging people to be fully engaged participants in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Throughout this year, the second Sunday of each month will be our "Game On Sundays." We'll explore how we play this game as Christians and what we need in order to play it well. For this first month, we discuss importance of playing on the team. To play in a game, you've got to be on a team. The effectiveness of the team depends on having all its players participating in the game.

### **Checking In**

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

### **Introduction**

Your presence matters. A team requires players that are fully engaged in the game. The players need to work in harmony, and play to each other's strength. When one person is missing or unengaged, their absence impacts the entire team. Think of a time in your life when you were on a team or working on a group project. How was the effectiveness of that group diminished when people did not participate?

### **Discussing the Text – Ephesians 4:1-16**

1. In verse 1, Paul says urges us to live a life worthy of the calling we received. What do you think that life looks like? How do the following verses (2-6) help flesh that out?
2. In verse 2, Paul exhorts us to bear with one another in love, while in verse 3, he says to make effort to maintain unity within the church. How do you see these two ideas connected with each other?
3. Verses 4 through 6 are a beautiful portrait of the unity of the church. What do you think it means for the church to be one?
4. According to verses 11-13, why did Jesus appoint leaders of the church?
5. According to verses 14-16, what is the goal of our participation in the church?
6. What does maturity in faith look like in verses 11-16?
7. If Jesus is the head of the church as described in verse 16, what role do we play?

### **So what?**

1. Who in your life God call you to "bear with" as Paul describes in this passage?
2. Where do you think the church could do a better job of being "one?"
3. What do you think it means in verse 15 to become in every respect the mature body of Christ? What does Christian maturity look like in your life?
4. How does the church benefit from your presence and your involvement?
5. What would it look like to be more engaged in the ministry of the church?
6. What does the church stand to lose, what do you stand to lose if Christians are not as involved in their church?

### **Prayer**

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Have the group ask God in prayer to show them how God is calling them to be involved in the church this coming year.