

# MESSAGE NOTES

## “Being A Bridge Builder”

Pastor Chris Lautsbaugh — September 26, 2021

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*Philippians 4:2-3a; Matthew 18:19-20; Matthew 18:15-16*

Unity is not the absence of conflict but the resolution of it.

1. Focus on the essentials.

2. Unity is evangelistic.

*John 17:20-21, 23 (ESV)*

3. Unity takes work.

*Philippians 2:2-4*

4. Take the first step.

Are we bridge builders or bridge bombers?

Who is God asking you to take the first step with?

What words or actions require us to apologize or ask for forgiveness?

Where do we need to demonstrate tenderheartedness and extend grace?

*All scriptures are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.*

# COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING OUTLINE

*Where your faith intersects with real life!*

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## Connect:

Each person shares a recent high and low from their life.

## Explore:

*What is God saying to you through this message?*

**Big Idea:** Unity in Scripture never means everyone thinks exactly alike, but is rather found in diverse people uniting around a common goal. Scripture encourages us to build bridges rather than bomb them, thereby making choices towards unity rather than the natural human tendency of separation.

**Choose one or two questions for your group to discuss as time allows.**

- ▶ Read John 17:20-21, 23. How would you define unity?
- ▶ How can we learn from people with differing views?
- ▶ Read Philippians 4:2. If you were Euodia and Syntyche, how would you feel hearing this call out in public? How does this inclusion in scripture show the weight of unity?
- ▶ Read Philippians 2:2-4. If we lived this passage out in our daily lives, how could we be attractive to the world? And if we don't live it out what does that say to the world?

## Activate:

*Spend a moment in silence to consider your response, then share your decision with the group.*

Ask God if there is someone you should be building a bridge toward? Is there a step you want to take this week?

## Pray:

*Thank God for the highs shared and lift up the lows.*

Pray the benediction prayer Pastor Chris prayed.

*Jesus, the Great Physician, I want to intercede on behalf of the church. You know our imperfections, our flaws, and our problems. Help us to unite under Your banner and to put aside our squabbles. Remind us that we are to have the same mind as that of Christ and to seek the interests of others rather than our own. The church is to be one body with many parts. Help us to unite around the sameness of the gospel and may our unity draw many to know you. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

*Fill in the blank key: absence, resolution; essentials; evangelistic; work; first; bridge builders, bridge builders*