

UP, IN, OUT:

- Work together to plan something fun to do as a group for the purpose of growing your “IN” relationships with each other.

OPEN:

- In your everyday life, is the word “diversity” good or bad? Why?
- Have you ever spent much time in a community or group of people who were significantly different than you? What was that like?

DIG:

- p.102, “*The more different ways people can participate in your church without needing to change their lifestyle, the easier it will be for your church to grow.*” What do you think about this and the other statements made about growing a big church fast?
- Collin repeatedly used the phrase, “a fellowship of differents” to show how Christians with lots of different backgrounds can be united in a church. Do you think this describes VCC? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 4:1-7

- In this passage, Paul gives us a recipe for walking in a manner worthy of our calling as children in the family of God. Go through each of the markers in verses 2 and 3 and discuss what they mean and why they matter.
- How can we reconcile the idea of being “*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace*” with chapter 6’s subject of church discipline and removing people from the church?
- Go through the “ones” of verses 4-6. What questions do you have about these?
- How does this passage support the idea of a diverse church united in fellowship?

Read Romans 12:3-8

- How does this passage help us better understand the idea of unity and diversity in the church?
- How do you think God has gifted you as part of the body of our church? Are you living out that gifting?

REFLECT:

What would a more diverse yet unified VCC look like?

Do you think we need to focus more on diversity or unity right now? Why?

APPLY:

What can we do to build VCC into a church of sinners who love sinners who are different from us?

PRAY: