Small Group Study Guide- Ephesians 4:7-12 The Gospel Unleashed Part Six

"God never loses sight of the treasure which He has placed in our earthen vessels."

-Charles Haddon Spurgeon

1) We all have grace. (Eph. 4:7)

- How would you define grace in your own life?
- Grace is salvation (Eph. 2:8-10) but also releases the favor of God through spiritual gifts. What spiritual gifts do you have and how are you using them in the church?
- What do we learn about using our gifts from Rom. 12:4-8?

2) Through grace we have received gifts. (Eph. 4:8-10)

- Study Psalm 68 and see what parallels your group can find between it and Ephesians 4:8-10. Are there specific words and phrases and/or imagery that stand out?
- Talk through the concepts of "ascended" and "descended to lower earthly regions." See what conclusions you can reach as a group? Does Luke 16:19-31 offer any insight?
- Read Eph. 1:22-23 and compare with Eph. 4:10. What does it mean for Christ to fulfill all things through grace gifts? How does this unify the church? How does this help the church truly display the manifold wisdom of God?

3) Gifts to the church are gifted people. (Eph. 4:11-12)

- How important is unity to the church? If it's such a vital thing, is it logical that the enemy works so hard at creating division? How can we be guardians of unity?
- Think of Jesus temptation, how is the devil striving to create discord? (Matt. 4:1-11)
- Paul exhorts that church members "do the work of the ministry." How does this biblical model clash with our current perception of the church?
- If our churches fit the idea of colliding wiring and witness and our commission and calling, what might the church look like? Think in terms of Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8.