

## Community Group Discussion Questions

### “The Way Forward Through Forbearance”

#### Ephesians 4:1-3, Selected Passages

**Gathering Together:** During the past year there have been a lot of unique stresses and challenges in life. How have you tried to best deal with those stresses? What has helped you most? What are the greatest challenges you have faced in trying to deal with these challenges?

#### **Growing and Getting Real Together:**

Jesus’ prayer in John 17 tells us he desired that we experience and display complete unity. Do you value unity as much as Jesus? Why or why not? What makes it difficult for you to experience unity? What helps? Tell of an example of complete unity you have either observed or experienced personally.

Do you think forbearance is essential to building unity?

Tell of a person who had patience with you. How did they express their patience and what impact did it have on you? What is most challenging for you when trying to practice forbearance?

What examples in the Bible of forbearance and patience are most meaningful and perhaps challenging to you?

What examples of the patience and forbearance of Jesus are most meaningful for you? Ephesians 4:1 encourages us to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” How have you done that? Has forbearance been a central part of your effort to live up to your calling? Do you think it should be?

Why are you at times slow to practice forbearance? Is it ever difficult for you to know whether you are being appropriately patient with someone or if you are enabling their behavior? What helps you know the difference? What helps you remember your need for the patience of God and others?

One reason we are not patient is that we are living hurried lives. What can help you slow down and be present for God and others?

In the sermon it was stated that forbearance is honest, it is hopeful, it remembers the dignity of others, and it is humble. Thoughts? Other characteristics you would add?

How do you think God is practicing forbearance with you today? What do you think and how do you feel about that?

#### **Group Prayer Time:**

Think of one person who is difficult for you to be patient with, and pray for God to bless them and lead them toward maturity in faith and in their relationships.

Pray that God would give you eyes to see and a mind to understand how important God views the unity of his children. Pray also for God to bring to your mind anything you need to do to build unity with others or repair breaks in unity.