

**Discussion:**

- Give examples of expressing Christ's love in words and service to others.

C. Resolve to be a peacemaker (v. 3)

You don't have control over every situation. Some will naturally get "out of hand." But when you have an opportunity to take the initiative, when your words or actions can express the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, use them for His glory. You can be a *Power of One* in bringing peace to a heart or home.

D. Recognize your abilities as a gift from God (v. 7)

It's no accident that you have that natural mechanical, cooking, music, leading, speaking, or mentoring skill. It was "factory installed." God matched your ability with someone's need—even before you were born. You were born to be a *Power of One*. Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

E. Refuse to live by the world's attitudes and actions (v. 17)

One person really can make a difference! Imagine our world without the impact of a John Wesley, Jonas Salk, Mother Teresa, or Martin Luther King Jr. A *Power of One*? Jesus and twelve of His followers shook their world—without being a part of it in their mind or spirit (Jn. 17:16). You can shake your world in your own way. Live for God without any strings attached. Be a force for holiness.

F. Renew your mind with the truths of God's Word (v. 21)

There isn't much power in a dead battery. Jump-start your witness with regular intake from the Bible. Filled with the wisdom of God's Word and the sense of His presence through a daily devotional time, you can make a positive and powerful impact. (Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Discussion:

- How does God want to use your church to impact your community and your world?
- How does God want to use you to impact your community and your world?

(Reflection and prayer)



The Power of One



Biblical Text: Ephesians 4
Biblical Truth: Gifts of the Spirit are given for ministry to others.
Lesson Goal: Every believer is a functioning part of the body of Christ. He is counting on them to reach their community and their world.

Introduction:

You've heard it said, "There's one in every crowd." That can be a positive or negative comment. Positively, there is usually someone who is willing to make an impact for good. God is counting on us to make an impact for good, a *holy impact* on the lives of others. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to Christians (Ephesians), telling them of the great power God was willing to give them for reaching others for Christ and building them up in their faith.

God is willing to empower you to reach your community and your world.

1. God's Power — Eph. 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is over all . . . through all . . . in all."

"The LORD your God is the *one* who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory" (Deut. 10:4). God's promises often link to *one* person, empowering that individual to rise above the rest of the crowd and obey Him no matter the cost. Acts 1:8...

Discussion:

How did these Bible heroes rise above the crowd and obey God?

- Noah (Gen. 6:5-9)
- Joshua (Josh. 24:14-16)
- John the Baptist (Mk. 1:1-4)
- Mary (Lu. 1:26-31, 38)

2. God's Powerful Purpose — Eph. 4:1-3 "Live a life worthy of your calling"

- God's purpose is to restore our relationship with Him that was broken by sin through our faith in Jesus Christ. (Ro.6:23, 2 Pet. 3:9, Jn. 3:16-17).
- In response to God's great gift, followers of Jesus Christ are called to share that plan of restoration with the whole world (Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 15:16).

You share the plan of restoration in your message and in your way of living.

3. God's Powerful Provision—Eph. 4:7-13 "To each one of us grace has been given."

- Each follower of Christ is gifted with abilities that can be used to reach people with the message of God's restoration through faith in Jesus Christ and to build up fellow believers in their "calling."

Discussion:

- Which of the following abilities do you have for answering God's call to reach people for Christ and build up fellow believers (Eph. 4:11-13)? (Explain)

Apostle/leader
Prophet/preacher
Evangelist/witness
Pastor/shepherd
Teacher/mentor

- Is it always comfortable to exercise our God-given abilities in the work of the Lord?
- Is it possible to be spiritually whole if one is not a functioning part of the body of Christ?

4. God's Powerful Plan — Eph. 4

God wants to use you to bring change to your community and your world.

A. Recognize your dependence on Christ for living a holy life (v. 1)

Self-powered Christianity is lifeless and useless. The good news, God is the Power Supply: Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit, emptying yourself of self-power and self-control and asking Him in faith to rain His holiness over your heart (1 Jn. 1:9). God's power can make you a *Power of One*.

B. Reflect Christ's love in words and service to others (v. 2)

Face it; some folks just aren't that easy to love! But God's love doesn't leave anyone out. He can fill your heart with His love. You can be a *Power of One* through the love of Christ living in you. John 15:9-12, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."