

## **Collaborating with the Spirit in Others** **Ephesians 4:25-32**

*The reason we must value relationships in the church, even above “being right” in every disagreement, is that relationships are the very \_\_\_\_\_ through which the Holy Spirit works among us. Our job is to maintain those vehicles.*

**Discussion 1.** This lesson calls us to move quickly to resolve pain in our relationships. That is easier in some relationships than in others. For you, which relationships are harder for you to do that? Why?

*Relationships built on the ways of the world take from each other and tear each other down. Relationships filled with the Spirit of God, on the other hand, are all about generous \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ each other up. Which are your relationships?*

**Discussion 2.** Building each other up doesn’t mean we never have hard conversations. If you have something difficult to say to someone, how can you do it in a way that is aimed at building them up rather than tearing them down? Is there someone in your life who does this particularly well? What makes them so good at it?

*As Christ followers, our role in collaboration with the Holy Spirit is to make every effort to \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit’s unity within the church. Our attitudes of anger, bitterness and wrath make that work virtually impossible.*

**Discussion 3.** Think about your relationships, especially with other Christians: what kinds of things may tempt you to hold onto attitudes of anger, bitterness and wrath? How do you resolve those feelings...how do you let them go?

*The church should be the world’s preeminent \_\_\_\_\_ on the subject of forgiveness; a watching world should be pointing at us and ridiculing us for how we forgive when it makes no sense to forgive. That’s what should be happening. Hmmm...*

**Discussion 4.** “Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and then waiting for the other person to die from it.” What does this quote mean to you?

**Discussion 5.** How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?