



BETTER TOGETHER

Name:

Participant Guide

Fall 2025- Part 2



MACOMB
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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LETTER FROM KURT

Have you ever felt like you are doing this whole faith thing on your own? The truth is you were never meant to. God, in his infinite wisdom, created mankind to need and desire relationships with Him and with others. The New Testament is packed with commands to "love one another," "serve one another," "encourage one another," and "unite with one another." These are not suggestions; they are core tenets of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

This fall, we are diving into 11 relational commands and will discover how these biblical mandates can only be followed in the context of genuine Christian community. We will explore what it means to be a part of the church body and how our individual journeys are enriched when shared with others. I invite you to engage in this study and learn how to build authentic, God-centered relationships as we contribute to the body of Christ.

The Christian life is not a solo endeavor; it is a team sport. When we are together, we can carry each other's burdens, celebrate each other's victories, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Our church family is stronger, more vibrant, and more effective when we are united.

It is my hope and prayer that throughout this Life Group season you will not only learn about the power of community, but that you will also experience it firsthand. May you discover the joy, strength, and encouragement that comes from being **Better Together**.

May God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kurt Charlton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kurt Charlton
Lead Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to help you dive deeper into our sermon series.

Sermon Notes

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you. Use this as a starting point for your group discussion.

Connect Questions

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

Core Questions

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer the questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

Change Questions

Conviction leads people to significant actions. At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says if you do not put his words into practice, then you are a fool (Matthew 7:24-27). Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. This happens through personal reflection and a genuine response to what you have heard from God. Feel free to answer the questions out loud when your leader reads them, or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook. This is the time to go deep and make it personal.

Care Questions

Please focus this time on your own personal praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one another.

ONE ANOTHERS

One Another's in the New Testament

There are 59 "one another" commands in the New Testament for Christians to obey. Some commands are repeated multiple times such as "love one another." This series goes through 11 of the most popular commands that can only be obeyed through genuine Christian community.

Love

- A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [John 13:34 NIV]

Accept

- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. [Romans 15:7 NIV]

Greet/Offer Hospitality

- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [1 Peter 4:9 NIV]

Pray

- Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. [James 5:16 NIV]

Encourage

- But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. [Hebrews 3:13 NIV]

Teach

- Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom. [Colossians 3:16 NIV]

Serve

- Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. [1 Peter 4:10 NIV]

Bear

- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [Ephesians 4:2 NIV]

Forgive

- Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [Colossians 3:13 NIV]

Live in Harmony

- Live in harmony with one another. [Romans 12:16 NIV]

Unite

- Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. [Ephesians 4:25 ESV]



**Be devoted to one
another in love.**



**Honor one another
above yourselves.**

Romans 12:10





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OCTOBER 19 - TEACH

Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16

Connect Questions

1. Were you a front-row or back-row type of student in school?
2. Who was your favorite teacher growing up? What made him/her your favorite?
3. When has someone provided you a “teachable moment” which has stuck with you?

Core Questions

1. Read Colossians 3:16. What should happen before we try to teach or admonish someone? Why is this important?
2. We are commanded to “teach and admonish one another.” What is the difference between teach and admonish?
3. Describe the differences between formal and informal teaching of God’s word in the church. What are some benefits and limitations of each style of teaching?

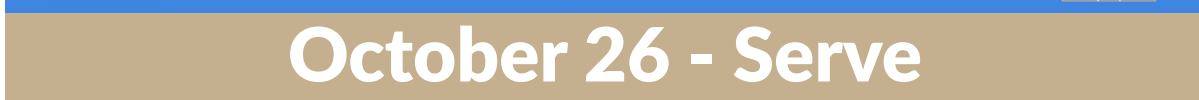
4. **The Bible gives very stern warnings for those who formally teach in the church. Why do you think these are included in Scripture? [Optional: Read James 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:7-8]**
5. **Teachers are to lead people to love the Bible, which means increasing in biblical knowledge, wisdom, and obedience. Explain the difference in these three and why all three are needed.**
6. **Read Romans 15:14. What three characteristics does Paul see in the Romans which make him confident they are qualified to instruct one another? Why are each of these important?**
7. **Read Hebrews 5:11-12. Why is the Hebrews writer upset with long-time Christians? What does his comment say about teaching in the church?**

Change Questions

1. **Who do you informally teach each week? What are some ways you can be a teacher of God's Word to those around you?**
2. **What are some ways you can create teachable moments and lead people to love the Bible?**
3. **How will you make MCC Better Together by teaching and admonishing one another?**

Care Questions

1. **What is going on in your life?**
2. **What are you struggling with that we can pray for?**
3. **What are some ways God is blessing you?**



OCTOBER 26 - SERVE

John 13; 1 Peter 4:10

Connect Questions

1. What is the dirtiest job you have ever completed? Would you do it again?
2. If you could instantly have a skill that would allow you to serve your community better, what skill would you choose?
3. When was a time you served someone by doing a task you do not enjoy? How did it impact them? How did it impact you?

Core Questions

1. Read John 13:1-5. Why do you think John mentions the betrayal of Judas before washing the feet of all the disciples?
2. Jesus humbled himself to serve every disciple, even though he knew they would all betray or abandon him. How does this example urge you to serve everyone?

- 3. Read John 13:3 again. Why do you think John mentioned the power and authority of Jesus just before this act of service? [Optional: Read Philippians 2:5-11]**
- 4. Why do you think Jesus chose foot washing as the way to teach humility and service to his disciples?**
- 5. Read John 13:6-11. Why do you think Peter initially refused to have his feet washed? How does this show our own resistance to serving or being served?**
- 6. Read 1 Peter 4:10. How does the context of John 13 help us understand what Peter means in this one another statement?**
- 7. Read 1 Peter 4:10 again. Why is it important to use our gifts to serve in ways that are practical and continuous?**
- 8. Read John 13:12-17. What does Jesus' example in this passage, and ultimately in his actions on the cross, teach us about how we are to serve one another?**

Change Questions

1. **What keeps you from demonstrating genuine humility? What are some places or situations where you can place one another above yourself this week?**
2. **What are some practical, shocking, and useful ways you can serve people this week?**
3. **In what ways can you formally and informally serve our church and people in your life with humility?**

Care Questions

1. **What is going on in your life?**
2. **What are you struggling with that we can pray for?**
3. **What are some ways God is blessing you?**

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NOVEMBER 2 - BEAR

Romans 15:1-3; Galatians 6:1-5

Connect Questions

1. Would you rather carry a 50lb bag for 5 miles, or a 25lb bag for 10 miles?
2. When have you helped someone with a difficult situation or project they could not have overcome by themselves?
3. When has someone helped you through a difficult time in your life?

Core Questions

1. Read Romans 15:1. The Greek word for “bear” is the same word to describe Jesus carrying/bearing his cross in John 19:17. How does this relate to bearing with one another?
2. Read Romans 15:2-3. What is the difference between pleasing someone for their good and simply pleasing someone to avoid conflict?

3. **Read Galatians 6:1. Why do you think Paul gives a warning to watch ourselves when we are helping someone caught in sin? What should we watch out for?**
4. **Read Galatians 6:2. What is the “law of Christ”? What does it have to do with bearing with one another? [See Matthew 28:20]**
5. **Read Galatians 6:3-5. Why do you think Paul gives these warnings when talking about helping others? Discuss the warnings in each verse.**
6. **People generally have three types of burdens: physical, emotional, and spiritual. Which is easier for you to help with? Which is more difficult? Why?**

Change Questions

1. What are some burdens of people you know? How can you bear with them this week?
2. What are some physical, emotional, or spiritual burdens you need help with?
3. How can you make MCC Better Together as you bear/carry one another's burdens?

Care Questions

1. What is going on in your life?
2. What are you struggling with that we can pray for?
3. What are some ways God is blessing you?



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NOVEMBER 9 - FORGIVE

Colossians 3:12-14

Connect Questions

1. What was the meanest thing a sibling or friend did to you growing up?
2. What was the meanest thing you did to a sibling or friend growing up?
3. Do you tend to be quick or slow to forgive others?

Core Questions

1. Read Colossians 3:12. Discuss each of these attributes and give your own definition of what they mean.
2. Of the five attributes in Colossians 3:12, which ones are difficult for you to clothe yourself with? Which ones are easier?
3. Why do you think Paul says to clothe ourselves with those five attributes before he says to forgive one another?

- 4. Read Colossians 3:13. Last week we talked about the importance of bearing with one another in love. Why do you think that is placed alongside forgiving one another in this passage?**

- 5. Read Colossians 3:14. Paul begins and ends this section by talking about love and unity as God's chosen people. How does this help us understand the importance of forgiving one another?**

- 6. Read Matthew 18:21-22. Why do you think Peter asked Jesus this question? Why did Jesus respond the way He did?**

- 7. Optional: Read Matthew 18:23-35 silently, and then have a volunteer summarize the story in a few sentences. Which character in the parable can you most relate to, and why?**

- 8. Optional: This parable ends with a teaching statement from Jesus in v. 35. Why is it significant that Jesus gives the command to forgive one another from the "heart"?**

Change Questions

1. Which of the five attributes [compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience] do you need to focus on today?
2. Whom do you need to seek forgiveness from this week? Whom do you need to forgive [directly or indirectly] this week?
3. What is one concrete action [prayer, conversation, deliberate mental choice] you will take this week to seek freedom, unity, and forgiveness?

Care Questions

1. What is going on in your life?
2. What are you struggling with that we can pray for?
3. What are some ways God is blessing you?



November 16 - Harmony

Lined writing area with 20 horizontal lines.

NOVEMBER 16 - HARMONY

Romans 12:1-21

Connect Questions

1. What comes to mind when you think of peace and harmony?
2. The human body is a great example of harmony. What happens when one part of the body is not in sync with the rest of the body? What are some examples?
3. When was a time you had to work with someone to accomplish a job or task, but the two of you were not in harmony or sync with one another?

Core Questions

1. Read Romans 12:16-18 about peace and harmony. How are peace and harmony different? Why are these so important for the body of Christ?
2. Read Romans 12:3. Why are the commands in this verse essential pre-requisites for living in peace and harmony with one another?

- 3. Read Romans 12:4-5. How does the body illustration relate to peace and harmony in the church? What happens when the body is healthy? [Note: the end of verse 5 is a one another command]**

- 4. Read Romans 12:6-8. Discuss a brief explanation of each spiritual gift. How do each of these require interconnected relationships with one another in the church?**

- 5. Read Romans 12:9-10. How do these one another commands prepare us to live in peace and harmony with one another?**

- 6. What are some positive results or indicators which may happen when a church lives in harmony with one another?**

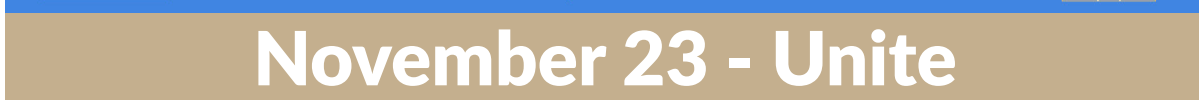
- 7. Read Romans 12:17-18. What do you think the first two phrases in verse 18 mean? What is required for you to live at peace with everyone?**

Change Questions

1. Are you contributing to peace and harmony to our church, the body of Christ?
2. Do you usually go out of your way to “live at peace with everyone”? What are some specific ways you can strive for harmony this week with those around you?
3. How can you help to make MCC “Better Together” by seeking peace and harmony?

Care Questions

1. What is going on in your life?
2. What are you struggling with that we can pray for?
3. What are some ways God is blessing you?



NOVEMBER 23 - UNITE

1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:11-13

Connect Questions

1. When there is disunity in a group, how do you typically respond? [Examples: ignore it, fix it, complain about it, abandon the group, etc.]
2. When have you supported a decision you disagreed with for the sake of unity?
3. Share a time when you were part of a group or team and everything seemed to work well even though people were diverse. Why was there unity with the group?

Core Questions

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Why do you think Paul overuses the word “one” in this section? How does this set the stage for his plea for unity in the body of Christ?
2. What are the benefits of diversity in a church? What are some of the problems that could easily happen if diversity is not combined with unity?

3. **Read Ephesians 4:11-13. Why do you think God set up a hierarchy of leadership in the church? How does this lead to unity and help the church accomplish more?**

4. **The sermon listed some “do not” commands for one another. What are some ways disunity can form in a church? How can these pitfalls be avoided? [Optional: read Romans 12:16; Galatians 5:26; Colossians 3:9; James 4:11; James 5:9]**

5. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. Paul appeals for the church to be "perfectly united in mind and thought." How does this command balance the value of diversity of thought with the necessity of unity?**

6. **Read Hebrews 13:17. Unity requires trust in leadership, even though they are not perfect. In what ways can a congregation help make their leaders' work "a joy, not a burden"?**

Change Questions

1. **Would you describe yourself as a contributor, complainer, or spectator at MCC? How would others honestly describe you?**
2. **Why is unity worth striving for in a church? What are some practical ways you can seek unity this week?**
3. **Take a moment to pray for the leaders of our church [pastors, elders, ministry leaders, group leaders, etc.]. Pray that their work will truly be a joy and not a burden.**

Care Questions

1. **What is going on in your life?**
2. **What are you struggling with that we can pray for?**
3. **What are some ways God is blessing you?**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

