

WEEK 7

BETTER TOGETHER

Reading: Chapters 12-13 - A Reconciled Body + Unity Creates Capacity

WEEKLY FOCUS

Jesus does not only reconcile us **to God**. He reconciles us **into one body**. Biblical unity is not sameness. It is different people, backgrounds, traditions, and gifts gathered around one Jesus. And when that body begins functioning together, **unity creates capacity**.

THE AIM

Week 6 focused on repairing relationships and learning to love well. Week 7 widens the lens. The aim is to help the group see community as more than a collection of personal relationships. We are part of a reconciled body, and there are things God wants to do through us that none of us were designed to carry alone.

BEFORE YOU GATHER

- Read Chapters 12-13.
- Complete the personal Reflection questions at the end of both chapters.
- Review the Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Discussion Guide sections in the back of the book.
- Come prepared to consider two questions: **What walls may Jesus be asking me to stop rebuilding?** and **What could we carry together that I cannot carry alone?**

LEADER PREPARATION

This conversation can move into differences of culture, generation, church tradition, theology, background, and experience. Do not make the goal agreement on every secondary issue. Keep returning the group to the book's central distinction: unity is not sameness.

LEADER NOTE

Chapter 12 says reconciliation does not erase distinction. It refuses to let distinction become division. Chapter 13 then shows what becomes possible when different people bring their gifts, strength, and perspective together.

The movement this week is from ONE BODY to SHARED CAPACITY.

CONNECT | 10 MINUTES

Begin with the opening question from Chapter 12's Discussion Guide:

START HERE

When you hear the word unity, what do you think it should look like among followers of Jesus?

Do not correct answers too quickly. Listen for whether people naturally define unity as agreement, sameness, getting along, shared purpose, or something deeper.

LOOK BACK | 10 MINUTES

Ask: **What stayed with you from Chapters 12 and 13?**

You can also ask: **Was there a moment in the reading that challenged the way you think about people who are different from you?**

DISCUSS + GO DEEPER | 30-35 MINUTES

Use the existing Discussion Guide questions for Chapters 12 and 13 as the backbone. Chapter 12 explores what it means for Jesus to reconcile different people into one body. Chapter 13 asks what becomes possible when that body stops competing and begins carrying together.

You do not need to finish every question. Follow the places where the group becomes honest.

GO DEEPER - LEADER PROMPTS

Where are you most tempted to confuse unity with sameness?

What differences are easiest for you to honor? Which are harder?

Have you ever treated another believer, church, generation, culture, or tradition more like competition than family?

Where might insecurity or the need for credit be limiting collaboration?

Whose gift increases your capacity because they bring something you do not?

What are you carrying alone that may actually require another boat?

READ TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE - EPHESIANS 2:14-18

Read the passage and notice what Jesus does with the walls that separate people.

Ask: **What does this teach us about the relationship between being reconciled to God and being reconciled to one another?**

Then ask: **What walls are followers of Jesus tempted to rebuild?**

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 5:4-7

Return to the picture of the breaking net and the other boat.

Ask: **What caused Peter to need his partners? What role did they play in carrying what Jesus provided? Where might you need to signal another boat?**

LEADER EMPHASIS

Not sameness. Oneness.

The book's vision is not that differences disappear. It is that our differences do not become greater than the One who unites us. Our unity says something about Jesus, and our partnership increases what we can carry.

KEY TRUTH

UNITY CREATES CAPACITY.

There are things God wants to do through us that none of us were designed to carry alone.

LIVE IT TOGETHER | 10 MINUTES

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE - CROSS A LINE + SIGNAL ANOTHER BOAT

First, cross one unnecessary relational line.

Identify one believer, church, culture, generation, or Christian tradition you could intentionally understand better. Pray with them, encourage them, serve alongside them, or begin a relationship. Practice seeing them as part of the same body.

Second, stop carrying one thing alone.

Identify something that may require another person's gift or support. Ask for help, invite collaboration, or specifically acknowledge the value God has placed in someone else.

PRAY TOGETHER | 10 MINUTES

Pray as one body. If possible, have several people pray rather than having the leader do all of the praying.

- Pray that Jesus would expose unnecessary walls between believers.
- Pray for humility to honor gifts, cultures, generations, and traditions different from our own.
- Pray against competition, insecurity, and the need for credit.
- Thank God specifically for the gifts represented in the group.
- Pray for discernment to know when to signal another boat and willingness to respond when someone else signals for help.
- Pray that the unity of God's people would make Jesus visible.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Remind the group: **Different people. Different gifts. One Jesus.** We do not become stronger by pretending we do not need one another. The mission moves farther when we stop trying to carry it alone.

NEXT WEEK

Read Chapters 14-15: The Circle Has to Keep Expanding + You Were Never Meant to Do This Alone.

The final week turns community outward and brings the journey back to where it began. Healthy community does not become a closed circle. It makes room, pulls up another chair, and remembers the truth underneath the entire book: **you were never meant to do this alone.**

BETTER TOGETHER.