

## Ephesians 4:1–3

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

## Ephesians 4:1

MEMORY VERSE

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

**Ephesians 4:1**

“Dad, I’m so mad I could put my fist through this wall!” Jack said angrily. “All we had to do was play together as a team, and that game could have been ours. But we’ve got so many guys who think they have to be star players, and they think the glory is all theirs. Well, they sure got the glory tonight, didn’t they?” “Son,” replied the father, “I can’t say anything that will make it better. But I can affirm you by saying you’re right. Unity behind a common goal is important. We can’t do it when we’re divided. Your team needed everyone working together tonight.”

Read Ephesians 4:1–3. Paul encouraged the church at Ephesus to walk in a manner worthy of their salvation. Because they now represented Christ to those around them, Paul urged them to conduct themselves in ways that would honor Christ among others.

Following the team analogy, we all know that when members of a team work together, they can accomplish great things. However, when team members spend more time bickering with each other than working together, the plan cannot succeed. God has given His people the task of representing Him to those who do not know Him. The way we work or fail to work together as a team makes an impact on the world around us.

How well do the members of your family work together? Do you make every effort to live in unity with each other? Do you usually demonstrate humbleness, gentleness, patience, love, and peace with each other? Or is life at home a series of disagreements and battles? As you consider your part in the ministry of your church, discern whether you work well with others? Are you part of a team that is doing the work God has given your church?

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

The family grabs a strong rope, walks outside, and plays an old-fashioned game of tug-of-war. Play with different teams, such as parents vs. kids, male vs. female, and one-on-one. After playing, discuss whether individuals have a hard time working against a team. Ask: **How does the game of tug-of-war destroy or create unity? What does it look like when Christians tug against each other?**

### Explore . . .

A family member reads Ephesians 4:1–3. Then discuss: **What type of lifestyle does Paul ask Christians to live? How should Christians treat each other? Which behaviors come easily for you? In which areas do you struggle? How does the way Christians treat each other impact other people in the Church and outside the Church?**

### Transform . . .

Each family member shares a situation in which they are struggling to get along with another person. The family responds by offering practical suggestions for maintaining unity with that person. Discuss: **What might God do if we were kind, patient, and loving with this person? What could happen if we gave in to our desire to avoid this person or tell them what we think about them?**

*Pray that God will help each person in your family to develop the ability to treat all people with gentleness, patience, and love, even when they don’t feel like it.*