**Growth Happens in Community
Ephesians 4:7-16 (page 837)**

**Main Truth**God desires to mature his people through the giving of spiritual gifts for their use in the community.

**Structure Thoughts**

**7But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.  8Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” 9(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)**

**11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

**15Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

**Take Home Question:**

**Did the daily decision I made this past week reflect the decisions of a growing believer?**

**Themes in Ephesians:** Identity in Christ, Glory of God, Living as believers in an unbelieving world