



## Equipped

**Focus** To see people saved, healed, set free, disciplined, **equipped**, empowered and serving.

**Open** What is your definition of a “really great day”?

**Read** Ephesians 4:11-16 says that Jesus gave certain people to the Body of Christ to serve as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Their purpose is to “*equip the saints for the work of the ministry.*” All believers are “saints,” and all “saints” are called to actively minister to others no matter what their vocation.

We must make ourselves available to be equipped. God is not necessarily looking for ability, but for availability. The main purpose of being equipped is to minister to others with the heart of a servant. According to Ephesians 4:16, this is what causes the Body of Christ to grow in love.

**Talk** 1. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 in one or two different translations of the Bible.

a) In your own words, what does it mean to be “equipped”?

b) According to the passage, what are the many purposes of equipping believers? What are the results of being unequipped (v. 14)?

2. What is the role of the believer in becoming equipped?

3. In what other ways can we become equipped besides attending church services or classes? Give an example of a person or experience that you feel has helped to equip you for life in some way.
4. What is “*the work of the ministry*” described in Ephesians 4:11? Why is it critical to understand the purpose of being equipped?
5. What is wrong with waiting until we *feel* equipped to begin serving? Can serving also help to equip us? Why or why not?

### Live

1. Consider the fact that you are in full-time ministry right now, no matter what your vocation. Have you been approaching life with this attitude of service? What is one thing you will do differently with this in mind?
2. What insight, information, or skill do you think would help you minister more effectively in your current circumstances? What is one step you can take this week to pursue obtaining the insight, information, or skill that you need?

### Pray

Thank Jesus for giving us people to help equip us to do His work on the earth. Ask Him to help you be proactive and to make yourself available to become equipped in the Body of Christ. Thank the Lord for entrusting “*the work of the ministry*” to you, and ask Him to open your eyes to see how to minister to those around you with the heart of a servant.

*For more information about Equip classes at Gateway Church, visit [equip.gatewaypeople.com](http://equip.gatewaypeople.com).*

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