

- Sing one or two songs from morning worship (printed in bulletin, available at redeemerprestemple.org under the “Resources” tab)
- Read the Scripture passage
- Pray with a specific focus on people and situations in the group (spiritual growth, needs, encouragement, rejoicing)
- Pray for the truths discussed from the Scripture study to more deeply permeate our lives and empower us for service and mission together

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see as the biggest hurdles to Christian unity in the church today? Not just along denominational lines, but within local churches themselves.
2. How can we work towards "unity of mind" and "humility of mind" among the fellowship of Redeemer? What are practical ways of practicing "brotherly love" towards one another?
3. Why do we find it hard to use our words to bless others?
4. Can you recall a time in your life when you were blessed by the words of another towards you? How did that impact you?
5. How could you practice blessing others this week? Is there someone specific in your life that you could speak a blessing to? If you don't mind sharing with the group, who might that be, and what would you like to say to them?
6. How can we be prepared to "make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you?"

Announcements

- Pray for our friends and missionaries the Clows in Honduras
- An Intro to Redeemer class will take place October 15, 22, and 29 after the worship service
- Choose a month for your group to serve as the hospitality team

1 Peter 3:8-17

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For

“Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.
¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.