



Deeper Application Message Guide

“Captive - Part 4 ”
Speaker: Pastor Jeff Love
Week of July 18, 2010

Getting Started

- 1) When you think of the destination or course of your life choose the statement below that best describes you:
 - I have a sense of where I am going and a general idea of how to get there
 - I am taking life as it comes, and don't really have a strict plan.
 - I have a well thought out plan and direction that I am confident in.
 - a) All of us at times lack direction for our lives. Discuss as a group what causes us to forget to intentionally live life on purpose.

- 2) Last week we talked about how being unique is a strength when we embrace the gifts God has given each of us.
 - a) What do you think it means “to walk in the authority of your calling”?
What happens to us when we are in our “sweet spot” ?

- 3) Although there are more gifts listed in the Bible, of the list of the following gifts, which do you identify with the most? Share with the group your thoughts.
 - Teaching (skilled at teaching principles or practical application, usually able to communicate well)
 - Pastor/Shepherd (Cares for individuals or a group of people and helps them grow and mature, includes skills of leadership and protection)
 - Evangelists (Has a special gift and desire to share the message of the gospel)
 - a) What if your gift is not in the list above, does that mean you have less ability to be effective in the church? Why do we elevate some gifts over others?
Does God see it that way?

Into the Bible

- 4) Read **Philippians 2:3-4** then **verse 14-16**
Why do we compare ourselves with others instead of Christ even when scripture says not to?
 - a) Why do you think many churches and Christians never experience the fullness of what God intends for them to be?

- 5) Read **2 Corinthians 12:20** then **Romans 15:5-7**
Why do so many churches and some Christians seem to have very little direction or effectiveness, while others seem to thrive? Is God just choosing to bless some people more than others? Discuss.
 - a) Read **Philippians 2:1-2 (read multiple versions)**
The word *consolation* is translated *encouragement*. The Greek word here, *has the root meaning of coming alongside someone to give assistance by offering comfort, counsel, or exhortation.*

Why is unity among so many churches lacking?
 - b) What is the power of growing together?

Digging Deeper

- 6) Think through the process of equipping/work/encouragement. What helps to equip people within the church? What motivates people to become involved in serving? What is encouraging for those who are serving?