WEEK 6

BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:1–3; Mark 9:33–41

BIG TRUTH

Bearing with one another means choosing humility, patience, and love as we work through differences and pursue unity in Christ.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 4:1–3 and Mark 9:33–41. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how humility, gentleness, and patience help us bear with one another in love. Pay attention to how Jesus responds to His disciples' immaturity and how His example shapes the way we pursue unity in our relationships.

Bearing Assumes Friction
The command means to sustain or put up with one another in love. Scripture expects personality differences, immaturity, misunderstandings, and annoyances. Not every irritation is a crisis or a reason to divide.

Humility, Gentleness, and Patience Make Endurance Possible
Humility remembers our own weakness. Gentleness is strength under control. Patience is long-tempered endurance. Together they protect the unity the Spirit has already created.

Grace Loves People Forward
Jesus did not abandon immature disciples; He corrected and formed them. Bearing with people is not enabling destructive sin. It is staying loving and teachable while God matures us together.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The Spirit creates one body, one hope, one Lord, one faith, and one family (Ephesians 4:3–6). We do not manufacture Christian unity; we preserve and display it through Christlike character.

Supplemental Passages: Romans 14:1–19 • Colossians 3:12–15 • 1 Thessalonians 5:14 • 2 Timothy 2:23–25 • 1 Peter 5:5

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What attitudes surround the command to bear with one another in Ephesians 4:1–3?

2. What kinds of immaturity do you see in the disciples in Mark 9:33–41?

3. How does Jesus correct His disciples without rejecting them?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What personality trait or habit in another person regularly irritates you?

2. Is the issue sin that requires loving correction, danger that requires boundaries, or a personal preference that requires patience?

3. Where do insecurity or pride lead you to compare yourself or compete with others?

4. How can you practice humility, gentleness, or patience in one specific relationship?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Identify one recurring irritation. Refuse complaint and contempt for seven days. Pray for the person by name, assume the best reasonable motive, and choose one act of humble service.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. How patient has Jesus been with your growth?

2. When do you confuse unity with uniformity, expecting others to think or act the same way you do?

3. Are you teachable when someone bears with you and corrects you?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Spirit of God, make me humble, gentle, patient, and eager to protect the unity You have given.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for: