Hook - Getting to know one another

* *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
* What has been sticking with you so far in our series on Ephesians?
* When was a time you felt a sense of unity with a diverse group of others?
* Describe a moment when someone made every effort to reach out to and maintain relationship and unity with you. What stands out about that moment?

Book - Scripture

* *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand* ***what the text is saying****:*
* **Read Ephesians 4:1-13**
* What has come in chapters 1-3, that Paul is building on with the “therefore” in Ephesians 4:1? (Some translations will have “then” rather than “therefore”).
* How are believers called to live in unity, as one?
  + What aspects are highlighted by Paul in his use of the word “one”?
  + What sameness are believers called into?
  + What diversity are believers called into?
  + What manner should this unity take?
* What is the end goal stated in verse 13?

Look - Connections to our world today

* *This section focuses on implications about* ***what this text means*** *about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
* For this section, consider taking time to individually journal, write, or draw on these prompts. Make sure paper, pens and drawing materials are available. (However, these prompts could certainly be used for straightforward discussion as well).
* As this passage makes clear our call as believers to unity in humility, gentleness, and patient love:
  + Where have you experienced this unity *already happening*?
    - When have you seen someone live this calling out?
    - When have you experienced this unity with other believers?
    - How is this calling encouraging?
  + Where have you experienced this unity as *not yet fully realized*?
    - What different worldviews compete with this call?
    - What are challenges to living into this call?
    - How is this calling challenging to you and us?
* After writing/drawing on each of these, take time to share highlights together as a small group.

Took - Personal Application

* *This application focuses on* ***how God is calling us to respond****. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
* What does this passage and this call to unity mean for us as Hillcrest?
  + Where have you found the church doing this well?
  + Where do you feel the church can grow in this regard?
  + What next steps might take to more fully realize this unity?
* What is one relationship you feel led to make every effort to keep unity in this week? What steps might that take?

Time of Prayer