



## ‘Made for Relationship’

### **Sermon Points:** Ephesians 4:1-16

1. We are made for relationship. (4:1-6)
2. We are shaped in relationship. (4:7-14)
3. We shepherd others through relationship. (4:15-16)

The US Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy shared the physical health consequences of the epidemic of loneliness/isolation, which includes...

- 29% increased risk of heart disease
- 32% increased risk of stroke
- 50% increased risk of developing dementia
- 60% increased risk of premature death

### **Group Opener:**

- Q. The message started with a video of a symphony playing the Jurassic Park theme song. Why did we start the message with this video?
- A. Each musician has a part to play, a group of musicians can make a greater song than on their own.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Share about a person/relationship that had a profoundly positive impact in your life. How did that relationship come about and what difference did it make?
2. Read 4:1-6 Why is unity so important to God in our relationships? What tends to get in the way of being “one?”
3. Read 4:11-12 Of the five spiritual gifts listed, which resonates the most with how you are wired and why? Share in an encouraging way, how you see each other are gifted.

NOTE: Leaders take some time to prepare for this question. You can review this question by looking at page 2. If people are unsure or conversation stalls then you can lead through what you’ve prepared.

4. Read 4:15-16 Are you actively using your gifts to share Jesus with others? If so, how?  
If not, what could you do to use your gifts more intentionally?

## **Ephesians 4:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

**Apostle** – this is the person who is concerned w/ advancing God’s mission. They are talking about the people who have yet to meet Jesus and fired up to develop new ministries to go get them. They’re more concerned with what’s yet to happen than what’s already happened.

**Prophet** – this is the person who’s concerned about the holiness and authority of God and his word. This is the person who wants to ensure that everything is done in accordance with what God has said and following in obedience. This person reminds us what God says. They also have some discernment and foresight in the sense that they don’t predict the future (like an OT P) but they say, “well if we do that, then this will happen.”

**Evangelist** – this is the person who wants people to get saved. They share the Gospel regularly. They’re worried that in our ministry, it may be helping people, but it better be getting people to trust Christ.

**Shepherd** – this is the person who cares about the people. They are concerned with how people are doing, if they are sick or in trouble or having a tough go of it. They call you to check on you. They want to make sure you are okay...spiritually and otherwise.

**Teacher** – this is the person who wants to take the Word of God, theology, doctrine, and what we do as a church and explain it in a way that people get it and are helped by it.