



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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Justice League (2017) | *We Need Others* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

At the end of the movie *Justice League*, the Flash and Superman prepare a race to see who the fastest man in the world is. Over the years, this has been a highly debated topic of conversation, mostly due to the human desire to pair up two similar individuals and see who the best is. **Who do you think would have won? What other superheroes with similar abilities would you like to see compete against each other?**

EQUIP

Justice League is a quintessential “putting the team together” movie. In it, we see Batman and Wonder Woman working hard to unite very different individuals for a common purpose. This hodge-podge of heroes is the last stand between Earth and certain destruction. Still, working together is essential. Similarly, we are told in scripture we stand in the gap connecting those around us to Christ, the ultimate hero who stands between us and eternal destruction. Like in *Justice League*, we also all have different skill sets and abilities that make us who we are.

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

But what about conflict in the body? In *Justice League*, we see a lot of conflict between members of the team, a lot of which is based around leadership. **What do you think would have happened if Wonder Woman hadn't stepped up and taken the lead towards the end of the movie? Would the team have continued to function and save the world?**

LEVEL UP

Several times in the movie, we see individuals begin to pull away and separate from others for a variety of reasons. Oftentimes, it was based out of a desire to do their own thing. Both Cyborg and Arthur thought they were better off on their own. It wasn't until they decided to put others before themselves that they found their place in the team. **Have any of you known someone (or been that person) who was always an outsider because they refused to put others before themselves?** Let's look at Scripture and see what it says about this kind of situation.

Romans 12:3-8 ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

In **v.3**, we are warned by Paul not to think we are better than we really are, but rather be honest with ourselves. The truth is we all have flaws and make mistakes, just like everyone else. Those flaws are things we need others in our life to help us get through so we can accomplish the mission given to us. As great of a tactician Batman is, he needed Wonder Woman to help lead the team. If he hadn't been able to recognize this shortcoming, he would never have been able to accomplish what he did, and the team wouldn't have been able to, either.

From **v.4-8**, it expounds on the idea of everyone having a different purpose in the body. No part we play is truly considered pointless. Sadly, many try to make leadership about position. Leadership is about responsibility, and if you don't do what you're responsible for doing, then someone else must do double duty for you both. Paul exhorts us in **v.6-8** to do something amazing: Do what you're responsible for. If you are a teacher, teach. If you are an encourager, encourage. Whatever it is you do, you are to do it and do it well. Imagine if Cyborg decided to shrug off his responsibility: How would that affect the team dynamic and the outcome of the situation? For starters, if they had found

out where to go, we know from Batman himself that their transport ship would have NEVER made it there in time, not to mention they would have had a difficult time separating the “mother boxes.”

MOD

Ask: What are some weak areas in your life where you know you need the help of others? Let's try to be honest with each other and really dig deep, analyzing our walk with God.

Ask: What are ways you can better serve the body? Give a real-life practical answer, nothing vague like “Encourage others around me.” Try for something specific you can do tomorrow (or even today right after this Bible Study). *(Allow everyone a few moments to think this through and give an answer).*

PRAY

In a moment, we are going to take up prayer requests and pray for everyone's needs. As we do, we will each pray over the person to the left of us, and pray God gives them boldness and strength to do what they said they would do to better serve the body.

THE NEXT LEVEL

1 Corinthians 1:10 ¹⁰ *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

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