



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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## **Avengers: Endgame (2019) | One Team | 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**

Throughout cinematic history, we've never had an endeavor as big as what we've just experienced. Ten years and twenty-two movies took us from the introduction of Tony Stark in Iron Man to the tear-jerking finale of End Game. This doesn't even include the TV series that exist inside of this world: Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., Agent Carter, Inhumans, Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage, Iron Fist, The Defenders, The Punisher, Runaways, and Cloak and Dagger. If you've managed to keep up with all of this, then you've become fully invested in a very large world.

**Ask: Let's take a moment and reflect. What has been your favorite MCU property, and why is it your favorite?**

### **EQUIP**

Amid nearly every property, even the dark and gritty Netflix ones, you see a running theme of the necessity of teamwork. Our heroes always seem to think they need to go it alone even though they need each other more than ever. The opening of this film shows the aftermath of a house divided. Even though they came together at the end of Infinity War, their failure was linked to their division.

In this film, however, we see the team having to do something specific: Rebuild. After five long years of coping with the loss of half of the population of the entire universe, a glimmer of light has appeared...but it will take teamwork. Teamwork that required people to put differences, personal agendas, and hurts aside for a greater good.

**Ask: Have any of you been in a situation where you had to work with others even though you were suffering a loss or had a personal issue with another teammate? How did you handle that situation?**

### **LEVEL UP**

In this film, we saw a lot of great team up moments. From the banter between Iron Man and Ant-Man to the heartbreaking events between Hawkeye and Black Widow, this film had us cheering and crying. We can all agree the best moments were at the end for the final battle. There was something inspiring when all of the heroes from the MCU movies began to appear.

**Ask: What was your favorite team up moment in the final battle?**

What made this final event so effective and powerful was the fact all the heroes were there working together. Every one of them had very different backgrounds. They all had different methodologies, mindsets, and skillsets, yet they worked together seamlessly. One of the best examples was in the epic run where they were trying to get the gauntlet to Ant-Man across the battlefield. Every warrior stepped in to help using their abilities to accomplish one greater good: Stopping the enemy.

This brings us to our spiritual conversation. There are those who feel just because they are not a

pastor, elder, or Christian education teacher, that they have no place in the kingdom of God. At the same time, we have ministers of the gospel that feel like they are all alone and have to do everything. [According to a 2017 article from "Influence," 46% of pastors have reported they had to deal with depression.](#) To be perfectly honest, a lot of that comes from standing as an island or being put into a position to handle everything on their own. But what does the word of God say about the work of the church?

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

Here, Paul is detailing the fact everyone has a place in the church. It's not up to just one individual, but all. Specifically, in verse 13, he tells us everyone is a part of the body no matter their race (Jews or Greeks) or position in life (slaves or free) because we all partake in ONE spirit. Salvation is the great leveler, and while everyone may have different responsibilities, we're still all together. We may have different ethnic backgrounds (Black, White, Asian, Latino) and some of us may be rich or poor, a business professional or struggling waiter; but if we are in Jesus Christ, we are equal in the eyes of God.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20**

Paul uses humorous metaphors to bring home the fact we're stuck with each other and just because you may not serve in one area doesn't mean you can or should just quit. Not everyone can have the responsibility of being a pastor. Not everyone can have the responsibility of being a church greeter (let's be real: Some people just aren't friendly enough to be THAT guy at the door who greets people when they first visit). But does that mean someone who's not a greeter or pastor is less than them? Does that make what they go through any less? The Apostle Paul says, "BY NO MEANS!"

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26**

Here, Paul lays out the exact opposite. EVERY member of the body is important. Every person in the body of Christ is precious and honored. Some may need more help or the protection of others. Some may need to be more thick-skinned than others, but each is valued equally in the eyes of God.

## **MOD**

In End Game, it would have been easy for pride to get in the way of our heroes. The Guardians of the Galaxy were not Avengers, but in the darkest of times, they were there to serve for a greater purpose. The army of Wakanda could have fortified themselves back up again, and not partook in the final fight, but in the darkest of times, they were there to serve a greater purpose.

Just because you're not a pastor, elder, or Christian education teacher does not mean you can't step up to serve the body of Christ. In the same respect, just because you're the pastor, an elder, or Christian education teacher, it doesn't mean you're too good to step up and walk a parking lot to pick up trash or serve in a nursery when the time comes.

At the end of End Game, "Avengers" was no longer a team name for a select few. It was all who were willing and able to stand in the gap. In the body of Christ, the term minister does not pertain to a certain select group; it's all who will stand in the gap. Beyond our race, beyond our status in life, and even beyond our denominational lines. There are certain doctrinal standards that should be upheld, but we should not allow methodology and non-salvation essential doctrine to stand between those who profess Christ and their corporate mission to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not as a group of pastors, elders, Christian education teachers, Baptists, Methodists, members of the Assembly of God, or Presbyterians -- but as Christians who serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **PRAY**

Before your time of prayer, ask everyone to be honest with themselves. Have they allowed pride to keep them from serving in the body of Christ? Have they allowed anger, unforgiveness, and fear to stand between them and serving the body of Christ? If so, pray for God's forgiveness and grace to move beyond this point. Also, pray for all in the body of Christ in your area. Ask the Lord to ignite revival as the Body of Christ humbles itself to the will of God.

### THE NEXT LEVEL

**Matthew 28:18-20** "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

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