



*At Summer Hill Church we are seeking to multiply opportunities for God's people to speak the truth to one another in love, so that in every respect we might grow to become the mature body of Christ (Eph 4:15-16). Outlined below is one way we are hoping to facilitate such regular opportunities. During the context of a shared meal at the conclusion to each sermon teaching series. This will typically take the form of a lunch for the 9:30 congregation and a dinner for the 6 pm.*

*The next of these opportunities will be at the conclusion of our 1 Timothy teaching series.*

### **SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE**

Our church communities rightly seek to establish regular opportunities for the ministers (elders/overseers) to teach and preach. Such teaching is to be a hallmark of their pastoral ministry.

However the scriptures also highly value other forms of public speech that are offered for the strengthening of God's church (1 Cor 12:1-11, 14:1-5, 26-28, Eph 4:15-16). Both men and women are to be eagerly included in these opportunities to speak the word of Christ to the church household.

We currently have opportunity to speak the word of Christ to each other in our small groups settings. However we have fewer opportunities to strengthen each other when we are gathered together as church.

On these occasions 2-3 people will be invited to offer a response to the Sunday teaching in order to encourage, exhort, and generally edify the church household. Contributors may reflect upon either some specific point of teaching, OR a general theme covered during the sermon series.

You are welcome to request sermon texts, re-listen to sermons online, or meet up with the preacher to discuss their teaching on a certain passage. A Summer Hill staff member will discuss your contribution with you prior to it being shared.

### **YOU MAY WISH TO OFFER...**

- a reflection sharing how you have been personally encouraged, challenged, or edified during the teaching series.
- an exhortation for the church to pay particular attention to some aspect of the series teaching that struck you as particularly important or timely.
- a considered application that is consistent with what has been taught.
- an encouragement of where you have seen Summer Hill Church embody something that has been taught.
- a prayer for the church to grow, endure, or repent in response to something that has been taught.
- a hymn/song or prayer that specifically responds to something that has been taught.

*\*Contributors are not aiming to re-teach or explain the scripture passage.*

*\*\*In the event of Covid outbreaks, or other obstacles to public gatherings in which a meal can be shared, the contributions may be pre-recorded or live streamed to smaller gatherings in people's homes.*