

## Chapter 1 Questions

- When were you messy and someone cared for you?
- Quote from *Loving Messing People*: “Your mess doesn’t disqualify you from being used by God. In fact, it makes you ever more qualified.” (p.17.) Explain whether you agree or disagree? Why does God use messy people?
- Explain God’s plan for the church from Ephesians 4:11-16. To help get you started...
  - What is the part played by the pastors and teachers?
  - What is every member’s part?
  - What is the goal of ministry?
  - How does this model of ministry challenge you?
- How did Scott Mehl’s Uber illustration support the idea of speaking the *truth in love*?
- On pages 20-21, Mehl distinguishes the mess of suffering and the mess of sin. Do you think “normal” Christians should be able to speak truth in love to one kind of mess more than the other? Why or why not?
- On pages 22-24, Mehl lists several reasons why people don’t engage in either caring for one another in the mess of suffering or restoring one another in the mess of sin. What would you add to the lists?
- What tends to hold you back from reaching out to others when your own life gets messy?
- What tends to hold you back from stepping into the messy situation of others?
- On pages 24-26, Mehl describes many messy people in his church who are busy speaking truth in love to other messy people. What hindrances do you need to overcome so you’re a “mess on the field” –someone involved in Gospel care - rather than a “mess in the bleachers” – someone who avoids responsibility?
- For private reflection: who is someone messy in your life you could demonstrate care toward? What is a first step you could take toward showing you care for them in their mess?