

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Ephesians: Walk This Way

Week 2

SERIES BIG IDEA (EPHESIANS 4:17-5:21):

Ephesus was an important coastal city, well-known for its rich history, economic hubs, religious temples, as well as the arts, not unlike Cape Town. Paul's letter to the Ephesian church illuminates how the gospel grows our faith and discipleship, and gives practical insights into living a life pleasing to God, and shows how the gospel engages with culture.

This is a 3 week sub-series on the topic of sanctification ... what God has done and does, and what we must do in order to progress in Christlikeness.

Ephesians frames its teaching about sanctification 4:17-5:21 in the context of 1) salvation (1:1-2:10), 2) spiritual community (2:11-4:16), 3) our primary home and work relationships (5:21-6:9) and 4) spiritual warfare (6:10ff).

GOALS

- Deepen our understanding and love of Scripture
- Grow in relationship with each other

TIPS

- There may be too many questions to cover everything, watch your time and try ensure there is sufficient prayer time at the end.
- This series is theological, it is preferable to have listened to the Sunday messages, especially the person leading the Life Group discussion.
- Life Group Leaders, we suggest doing a little more reading of Ephesians commentary over this series to equip yourself for leading well. It is our hope that over these series, our leaders are going deeper in Scripture to be able to lead out of a richer depth of pursuit and understanding of God and his word. Some good commentaries to consider reading over this time:
- <http://www.slices.org.uk/Slicesforall/sfeEphesians.html>

- <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/ephesians/>

PRAYER

Open in prayer. Consider getting someone in your group to come prepared to do this section.

DISCUSSION

1. Who has been your biggest influence in your career and/or hobby? How have they impacted on the way you perform/work?
2. What has been a significant difference you have noticed in yourself since becoming a Christ-follower? What has changed most in your attitude, behavior and thinking? Has there been a big change? Would someone who knew you before be surprised about something now?

Someone read the following scriptures: Ephesians 5:1-14

3. What stands out for you about this section of scripture?
4. Are there any behaviours here that you feel have changed in you since becoming a Christ-follower? Why?

Paul isn't listing a rule book – he is teaching on what imitation of Christ would look like. Go through the passage again and think through the lens of the first instruction “be imitators of Christ”.

5. Since we couldn't even imagine Jesus ever engaging in these types of behaviours, how would prioritizing imitating him look in your everyday living?
Not joking at other people's expense, no sexist or racist jokes at all, not laughing or endorsing other people doing it, not engaging in sexual immorality, foolish talk, coveting others, sexual immorality.
6. What does Paul instruct us to do instead in verse 11? What light is he referring to in verse 13-14?
The light of Christ. We are his light in the world.
7. What areas do you think you would like to work on more/would like prayer for?

PRAY

Spend some time praying for the answers that came up in seven. Pray for our community and your life group. Pray that we will learn to imitate Jesus.

IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week we will be looking at Ephesians Eph 5:15-21.