

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

GETTING STARTED...

Do you get stage fright? The fear of public speaking is one of the most common fears that people have. And its not hard to understand why, as soon as you step out onto the stage, everyone can see you. You are illuminated on the stage by a bright light and everyone is focusing on what you are doing and saying. Every strength and flaw seem to be amplified and there isn't anywhere for us hide. That is what being in spotlight is like. And while not all of us need to be public speakers, having our lives visible is good for us. Instead of trying to hide all our faults, the Bible teaches us to expose them to the light so that we might be rid of them. Its when we try and hide our sin that they are most powerful. When we bring them to the light of the gospel of Jesus, we find that they are powerless to hold us down. We need the spotlight of the gospel so that we might live for the glory of God.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Paul uses several contrasting images to speak of our lives before and after Christ, what are they? What do they tell us about the difference between the two?
2. In verse 14, Paul seems to quote from something like a Christian hymn. How does this correspond to other places in the Bible? See Isaiah 9:2, 60:1, 1 Thess 5:6-7, and Rom 13:11.

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz/Lake Errock At first glance, “be imitators of God as beloved children” feels like an impossibly high standard. Is it? Why or why not? And how can you better imitate God better this week?

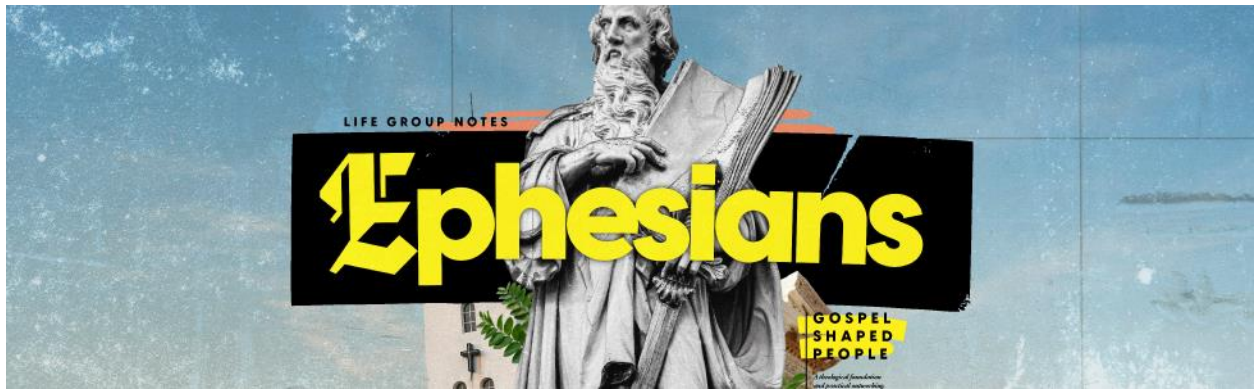
Chilliwack Verse 11 calls us both to take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but to instead expose them with the light of Jesus. What are some ways that you have minimized and approved of areas of darkness our text addresses? And what are some ways it can look like to expose the darkness with the light of Jesus, both in the pursuit of your own holiness and as a witness to the world?

Harrison Reflect on what your life looked like before turning to Christ and what it looks like now after surrendering your life to Jesus. Where have you seen transformation? What areas of darkness did Jesus bring into His light? What areas might Christ want to shine more of His light on?

Promontory What do you think the Apostle Paul meant when he told us to “Be imitators of God”? What is your first reaction when you encounter this challenge? What is the hardest part for you in seeking to live like Jesus?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*