

FRESH FAITH | WEEK 5: THE BRIDGE BETWEEN

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

SERMON STUDY

Dive deeper into this week's message and passage from the Bible. Here are some questions to help you guide your group discussion.

The Bible describes a relationship with Jesus as a walk. In Ephesians 5, Paul teaches believers to walk in love, light, and wisdom.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2. Walk in love. People can never be totally like God, but we are called to imitate him. Imitating God is not a way to earn his love, but instead, it is a response and desire to learn from his pure and perfect love.

- How have you experienced the transformational love of God? Has it changed your motivation for doing good and loving others? If not, how can your group encourage you to lift the limits on your love?
- How would your relationships and interactions with others change if you loved everyone the way Jesus loves you? How can Jesus' example help teach you how to love people you find especially difficult?

Read Ephesians 5:3. Walk in light. Paul speaks bluntly: there should be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among followers of Jesus. Jesus brought these sins to light so his children might be free of them, and in his grace, he is patient when they stumble walking with him. It's the direction that matters, not perfection.

- How have you believed the cultural lie that impurity and sex are nothing more than physical appetites, like hunger? How have God's boundaries for sex proven to be helpful/good in your life?
- How does greed impact your life and relationships? Has desire for wealth or social status ever stolen your affections that should have been directed to God? Do you find yourself turning to alcohol or other substances and distractions when life gets hard instead of turning to God for strength?

Read Ephesians 5:15-20. Walk in wisdom. Paul tells the believers to use wisdom to think clearly about things that are unclear. He urges them to be filled with the Holy Spirit who grants discernment.

- How can you develop wisdom and apply it to difficult decisions and choices?
- We want to be the kind of church that loves the word of God, is passionate in our worship of him, works hard to accomplish his mission, and diligently loves and cares for the brokenness of the world. Do your personality and passions resonate with one or more of these four areas? Which area has been more difficult for you to understand or contribute to? What are some ways you could grow in each area?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? What are you going to do about it, and when?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Here's an overview of what we're being challenged with this week in Daily Bible Reading:

Day One: Ephesians 5:1 | Imitate God's Love.

Day Two: Ephesians 5:2 | Empowered by Jesus' Love

Day Three: Ephesians 5:3 | No Place for Sexual Immorality and Greed

Day Four: Ephesians 5:15-18 | Unclear Things

Day Five: Ephesians 5:18-20 | The Soundtrack of Your Life

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