

Live it Out | Ephesians 5:15-6:9

March 19th, 2023

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.

- 1) Which TV family is most like your family right now?
- 2) When have you allowed another to have their way rather than forcing your own preference?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Review

- 1) The second half of Paul's letter is about walking (or living) out our life in Christ. How have we learned to walk so far? (See also Ephesians 4:1, 4:17, 5:2, 5:15)
- 2) Were there any questions in the Live It Out that you would like to discuss?

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

- 3) The wise walk in ways that make the most of every opportunity. What obstacles are there to this intention?
- 4) How does being full of Spirit relate to gaining wisdom? See Proverbs 2:6-10, 9:10
- 5) Why would Paul use being drunk on wine as a helpful contrast to being full of the Spirit? How do they compare?
- 6) List everything from verse 19 to 21 that results from being filled with the Spirit? When have you seen evidence of those things this week?
- 7) Giving thanks is listed as a result of being Spirit empowered. Why does it take the Spirit's power to be thankful "always and for everything"?
- 8) One of the main results of being Spirit empowered is submitting "one to the other". What does the word submit mean? What does it NOT mean? How has it been used improperly?
(Leaders: Be ready to pray for those who may have stories of abuse, domination, or oppression.)

Read Ephesians 5:22-6:9

- 9) Paul illustrates submission one to the other in three relationships. How is this teaching countercultural?
- 10) Together try to locate all the phrases of "unto the Lord" and "as to the Lord". Why is submission to Christ the foundation of submission to others?
- 11) How does being in Christ enable status, authority and power to be relinquished? See Philippians 2:3-7
- 12) Describe how marriage models the submission between Christ and the church? How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to put others ahead in your marriage? in your family? in your workplace?
- 13) The last phrase says God does not show partiality to any person. What tempts us to think more highly of those who are in charge or have authority?
- 14) What scripture verse helps, challenges or convicts you the most in this passage? Why?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.

- 1) Lord, "Where am I being foolish doing things my way rather than wise and seeking you?"
- 2) Lord, "To whom do I need to submit? How can I serve them as if I am serving you?"