

Small Group Questions...

Who do you think WE are? (Ephesians 5:7-14)

Have someone pray asking the Spirit to move and speak during your small group time.

ICEBREAKER

- When you hear/read the verse that says that our battle or fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world (Ephesians 6:12), what comes to mind? Share it with your group.

You may like to read Ephesians 5:7-14 together out loud.

DISCUSS

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

- What stands out to you in this verse?
- Does it answer the question to our series?
- What does living as children of the light look like?

V9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

-What are some other ways that these “3 characteristics” could be interpreted?

-Spend some time reflecting on these questions below?

1. Does goodness, compassion and Godly character shine in and through your life? What do you see? Do they shine? Or is there a dark patch of stinginess, malice, spite or hatred? *SP of God, if there is any hint of those things, please shine your light on them and push out that Darkness in Jesus name...*
2. What about righteousness, fairness and moral courage! What do you see? Do those things shine in your world! Or is there compromise, injustice, prejudice or racism? *SP of God, if there is any hint of those things, please push out that Darkness in Jesus name...*
3. How about truth and personal integrity! What do you see? Do they shine in your world! Or is there some dark stuff falsehood, untruths or lies? *SP of God, if there is any hint of those things, please push out that Darkness in Jesus name... AMEN*

-You might also like to share with your group an area of your life that needs some light!

The light produces what is GOOD, RIGHT and TRUE but it doesn't stop there, Paul goes on to encourage us in ***V10 to find out what pleases the Lord.***

-Practically what does this verse mean?

V11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

14 This is why it is said:

***“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”***

-Whose job is it to expose sin? Discuss! What is the danger here for us?

-What is the other danger with this verse, *“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness.”*

-Do you live life under a bowl?

“Christ shines His light into the darkness and it’s HIS LIGHT that illuminates or exposes people’s sin and His light Wakes up the sleeper and they RISE from the dead and find SALVATION.”

Matt 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

-What is this verse saying to us?

-Have someone summarise Max Lucado’s *“Parable of the 4 Candles...”* or read this story together...

“A few nights ago a peculiar thing happened. An electrical storm caused a blackout in our neighborhood. When the lights went out, “I felt my way through the darkness into the storage closet where we keep the candles for nights like this.....I took my match and lit four of them.....

I was turning to leave with the large candle in my hand when I heard a voice. “Now, hold it right there.”

“Who said that?”

“I did.” The voice was near my hand.

“who are you?” “What are you?”

“I’m a candle.”

I lifted up the candle to take a closer look. You won’t believe what I saw. There was a tiny face in the wax....a moving, functioning, flesh like face full of expression and life.

“Don’t take me out of here!

“What?”

“I said, don’t take me out of this room!”

“What do you mean?” I have to take you out. You’re a candle. Your job is to give light. It’s dark out there.”

“But you can’t take me out. I’m not ready,” the candle explained with pleading eyes, “I need more preparation.”

I couldn’t believe my ears. “More preparation?”

“Yeah, I’ve decided I need to research this job of light-giving so I won’t go out and make a bunch of mistakes. You’d be surprised how distorted the glow of an untrained candle can be.....”

“All right then,” I said. “You’re not the only candle on the shelf. I’ll blow you out and take the others!” But just as I got my cheeks full of air, I heard other voices.

“We aren’t going either!”

.....I turned around and looked at the three other candles.....“You are candles and your job is to light dark places!”

“Well, that may be what you think.” Said the candle on the far left.....“You may think we have to go, but I’m busy.....I’m meditating on the importance of light. It’s really, well.....very enlightening”.....

“And you other two,” I asked, ‘are you going to stay in here as well?’

A short, fat, purple candle with plump cheeks that reminded me of Santa Claus spoke up. “I’m waiting to get my life together. I’m not stable enough.”

The last candle had a female voice, very pleasant to the ear. “I’d like to help,” she explained. “but lighting the darkness is not my gift.....I’m a singer. I sing to other candles to encourage them to burn more brightly.”

.....she began a rendition of “This Little Light of Mine”.....the other three joined in, filling the storage room with singing.....I took a step back and considered the absurdity of it all. Four perfectly healthy candles singing to each other about light but refusing to come out of the cupboard.

-What is this parable calling us to as individuals and as a church?

PRAYER

You may like to close by praying for each other and specifically praying for God to use you to lead someone to the Light!

God Bless.