



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE 11/8/17

BIBLE PASSAGE Ephesians 5:10-20

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

The book of Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus while he was in prison. Ephesians covers some of the most important aspects of what it means to be a Christian. The first half of Ephesians goes into the "why" and "who we are" and second half is a challenge to believers to continually be maturing in their faith. Paul was making it clear that we, as believers, are called by God and our lives should become a reflection of that.

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
How do we "carefully determine what pleases the Lord"?	The Bible is the very best resource out there! It's God's way of teaching and guiding us and should be our go-to resource when we have decisions/questions in life. We can also get guidance from other Christians and through times of prayer.
Do worthless deeds always stay hidden?	Everything we do and say affects who we are and who we are becoming. Worthless deeds will come to the light eventually, but if we confess and bring them to the light ourselves, God will forgive us and can help us make wise choices.
How can we be "filled with the Spirit"?	In vs. 19-20, Paul gives the Ephesians examples. For us, it's our priorities, like in Q.1 Regularly attending church, praying, reading the Bible, being a part of small group - these things can help us learn to hear from God more and experience the love he has for us.

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

- What is one negative priority that needs to change in your life?
- What is one positive priority that you and your small group can give more attention to?
- Do you think things truly can't be seen if hidden in the dark? Try this at home: grab a small flashlight (put it in a white sock if it's a super bright one), head into a room with no windows, like a laundry room, basement or bathroom, close the door. Find an object to focus on, one that's not fully hidden but not easily seen right away. Turn the lights off and let your eyes adjust to the darkness for a few minutes. Then, turn the flashlight on and set it in the middle of the room, return to where you were sitting/standing. Your eyes will adjust, and even that well-hidden object can still be seen with that tiny little flame. Light pierces darkness, no matter how small it is!

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: