**Life Team Notes – week of 10/7/18**

* Have you ever wanted to be like someone growing up? Why?
* Why did you want to be like them or admire them?

**The Head Line**

This past Sunday we went through Ephesians 5:1-21.

**The main headline for this passage is that Christians should be “imitators of God.”**

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore. be imitators of God as dear children.

* What does it mean to you to be an imitator of God?
* The following verses in chapter five describe areas in our life that we need to reflect God in. **Break into groups** and spend 10 minutes reading and discussing verses 2-21 and make a list of the areas mentioned in the chapter that we are to examine in our life.
* Discuss the lists as a large group.

How we treat others (love), is there any sexual immorality, impurity, greed, covetousness, filthy and foolish talking, coarse jesting, poor use of our time, laziness, how we make decisions, alcohol consumption, our gratitude or lack of gratitude.

* Which ones can be the most controversial?
* Are there any of these that are difficult or some / or you? Why?

**Three areas are to walk in**

1. **Walk in love – This deals with God’s character lived out in us.**

**Ephesians 5:2, 1 John 4:8**

* If someone were to point to a child and say, “that child is really loved by his parents,” what would you conclude about how his parents treat him?
* What are some of the defining traits of God’s love?
* How do you think loving others like this would affect your life?

1. **Walk in Light – This deals with God’s word lived out through us.**

**Ephesians 5:8-13, Romans 13:12**

* Looking back at Eph 5:8-13, who are we to shine the light of God’s word on?
* Whose behavior is meant to be exposed, those inside the church or outside the church? (inside – ours)
* Christians are to walk in light. Verse 6 mentions deceitful teachings, what are some unhealthy teaching that can lead people to live immoral lives?

1. **Walk in wisdom – This deals with God’s discernment given to us.**

**Ephesians 5:15-21, Colossians 4:5, 1 John 4:1**

* This is about learning what pleases God in our life. How do I know if I understand the will of God?
* Is everything spelled out for us in the bible?
* What are areas in life we need discernment?
* Verse 20-21 says we are to be grateful for what God has given us, how does not being thankful to God encourage sexual immortality, greed, obscene behavior and jokes, and drunkenness?
* According to verse 18 what is the key to imitating God? **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The take home study for this week is to help you understand the Holy Spirit.

**Paul in Ephesians 5 emphasizes three areas of a Christians life – we need to take a hard look at.**

1. **How we treat others**
2. **Purity in our actions**
3. **Thankfulness in our heart**

* Which one of these three do you need the Holy Spirit the most?

**Break our groups.**

* Ephesians 5:20 commands us to “give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
* In your groups of 3-4, take turns thanking God for everything he has done for giving you new life in Jesus Christ.

**Take home:**

**A Closer Look At The Holy Spirit**

Deuteronomy 29:29, 1 Timothy 1:3-7, Luke 18:16

(1) He’s God, the provider of spiritual knowledge and power.

Acts 5:3-4, Matthew 3:16, Matthew 12:24-32, 1 Kings 17-2, Kings 13:20, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-27, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, John 16:7-11, Philippians 2:13

(2) We receive the Spirit when we become a Jesus follower.

Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:9

(3) Sometimes it’s spectacular. Sometimes it’s subtle.

Ephesians 5:18, Acts 2:1-21, 1 Kings 19:11-13

(4) Unfortunately, we all have static on the line

Acts 16:6-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

(5) To be continually filled with the Spirit we have to stop, listen & follow

Proverbs 8:34, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 12:15, Galatians 5:16-23, Proverbs 4:1

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**The main headline for Ephesians 5 is that Christians should**

**be “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of God.”**

Ephesians chapter five describes areas in our life that we need to reflect God in. **Break into groups** and spend 10 minutes reading and discussing verses 2-21 and make a list of the areas mentioned in the chapter that we are to examine in our life.

**Three areas are to walk in**

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