

Ephesians 5

Background

Paul's mission in Ephesians 4 was very clear. As one of the mouthpieces to the Gentiles and as somebody who had the ear of the Jewish believers, it was time for unity once and for all. He reminded them in Ephesians 4:4-6, "*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*"

Through this unity, and once all men no longer walked in their past iniquity, God was able to utilize them for the work of ministry. Some of them would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. They would be used mightily for the edification of the church and as a positive force for the kingdom of God. Through this unity the world would see that the gospel was for everybody.

What's next in Ephesians 5? Read on and let's study together.

Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.
2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

Ephesians 5:1-2:

"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Day 2 - Observations

3. In verses 1-2, **what** does Paul call the reader, as believers, to be? **How** does he exhort the reader to walk?

4. In verses 3-7, **what** are some of things Paul lists as unfit for the saints? **What** does he NOT want the reader to be deceived by?

5. In verses 8-14, **how** does Paul exhort the reader to walk? In contrast, **what** should the reader, as believers, have nothing to do with?

6. In verses 15-21, Paul exhorts the reader to walk in a third distinct way. **What** is it?

7. Verses 22-33 shifts to the marriage relationship between a husband and wife. **How** does Paul exhort wives and **what** are their responsibilities in the marriage relationship? Same question, but **what** about the husband?

8. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.

Day 3 - Additional Observations

9. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

10. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.

11. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV), "**Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.**" - This week's word from the passage above: "**imitators**"

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

12. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

Day 4 - Interpret

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

13. Meditate on verses 1-2. Think about what it means to be an imitator of Christ (pull in what you learn from the word study) and relate that to walking in love as mentioned in verse 2. Now zoom out to verses 1-7. What truth(s) was Paul teaching the readers of this passage about the relationship between being an imitator of Christ and walking in love? (Hint: Look beyond the list of "don'ts" and focus on the larger picture)

14. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

15. Based on your interpretation from day 4 (question 13), write a challenging life application in the form of a question.

16. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
