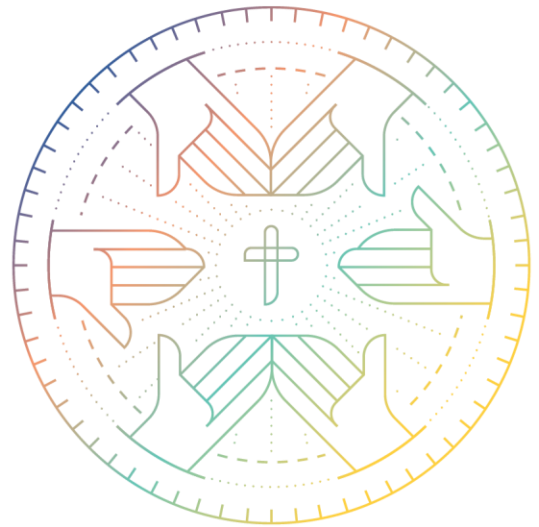


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What life experience (good or bad) have you had that you are grateful for?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

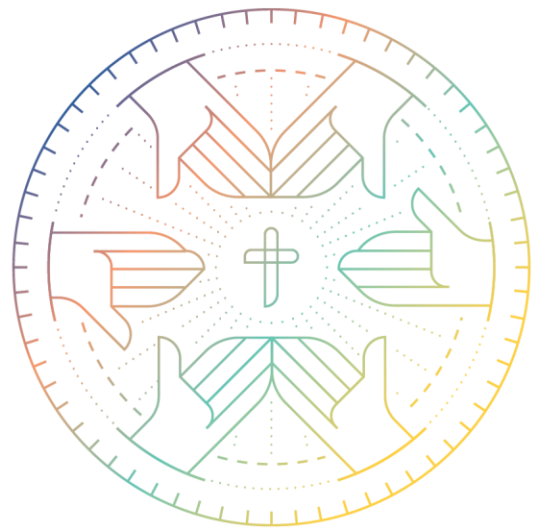
In this week's passage, Paul commands us to be imitators of God and to walk in love. To do this, we must make sure that we do not participate in things that belong to the old self discussed in chapter 4. Paul here will lay out some of those things and encourage us to be children of light.

## INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. What do you think Paul means when he says to "imitate God"?
2. Read Ephesians 5:3. Paul lists 3 critical moral actions to eliminate:
  - Immorality – Any sexual activity outside of marriage
  - Impurity – Twisted heart of lust
  - Covetousness – greedWhy do you think Paul puts an emphasis on these actions?
3. Read Ephesians 5:4-6 and Ephesians 4:29. What sticks out to you about these passages? How important is the role of our words in being imitators of God?

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## APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Matthew 12:34-37 and James 1:26. After reading these passages what sticks out to you about those who serve God but do not honor him with their words? What steps can you take this week to be aware of the words you use?
2. Read Ephesians 5:7-14. Here Paul calls us to walk as children of light. Light allows us to be grateful because we know that God has our best interest in mind, and isn't trying to limit us. What is in your life are you truly grateful for?
3. Paul lists four reasons why it is important to practice gratitude in our lives:
  - God knows the destruction that can happen. Verse 3.
  - There will be a terrible loss of blessing of God's reign in our lives. Verse 5.
  - We would ultimately experience the wrath of God. Verse 6a.
  - The Gospel is rooted in obedience. Verse 5:6b.

Of those listed, which one sticks out to you, and which truth do you need to reflect on this week?

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, may we be imitators of you walking in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Help us this week to reflect on our lives and root out any immorality, impurity, or covetousness that may be present. Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross that frees us from our old way of living. Let us walk as Children of Light so that we may understand your will and be filled with your Spirit. We give thanks to you and pray all of this in your wonderful and holy name. Amen.