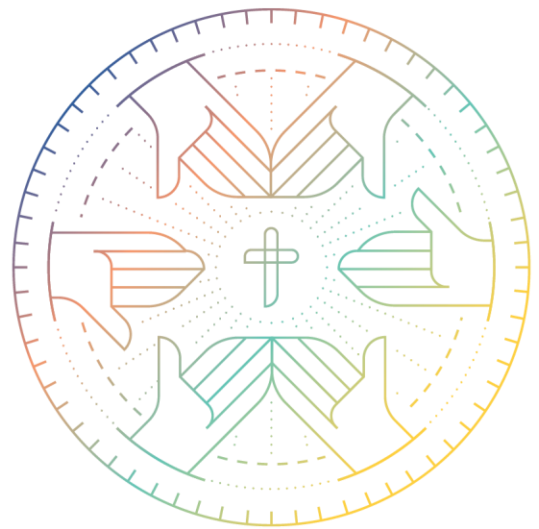


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

In this week's study, we will be covering Ephesians 5:15-33. Note the part of this week's discussion deals with the idea of submission. We are providing an article that breaks down the biblical definition of submission and its important role in the believer's life.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/submit-to-one-another.html>

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is one thing you are looking forward to this summer?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

In this week's passage, Paul continues to instruct us on how we should walk in love through being careful how we walk, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and submitting to one another. We do these as mirroring Christ's relationship with the church.

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

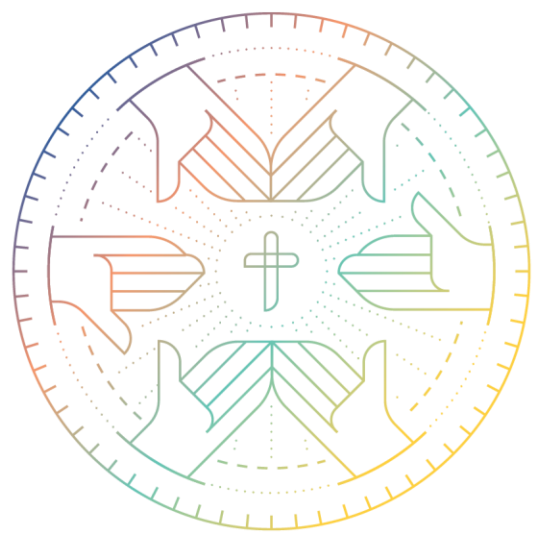
1. **Read Ephesians 5:15-17. In this passage, Paul instructs us to look carefully at how we walk. How can we evaluate our walk with the Lord?**

#### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Paul once again returns to the theme of "walking". This term is used six other times in Ephesians. We are to walk as Children of Light (Ephesians 5:8), in a manner worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1), not like unbelievers do (Ephesians 4:17). The importance of this passage is for personal responsibility in how we choose to live our lives. Paul desires believers to grow in maturity. It is hard for us to have an effective witness without spiritual growth present.]*

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2. Read Ephesians 5:18-21 and John 10:10. According to these passages, what does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Anything which has the power to control, harm, or hurt a Christian needs to be handled with extreme care. Paul's positive alternative to being drunk is to "be filled with the Spirit." Just as drinking a great deal can cause a person to be controlled by wine, focusing on the Spirit can cause a person to be filled or controlled by the Spirit. However, this control or filling is so rather than being "out of control" we are motivated to practice sharing psalms, singing, being thankful, and submitting to one another.]*

3. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Ephesians 5:21-24. What connections do you see in these passages between humility and submission?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Submission in the context of a Christian relationship includes the idea of putting someone else, and their needs, above ourselves. This is not for personal benefit, but rather out of "reverence for Christ." When we serve others, we serve the Lord (Matthew 25:35-40). This approach stands in stark contrast with worldly wisdom. In business, the principle is often taught to either put ourselves first or to help others so that you can benefit. Yet Paul offers a better and higher way, noting that our service to others is service to the Lord. Humility creates the capacity for submission. Jesus modeled humility himself by coming to earth and dying for our sins.]*

## **APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)**

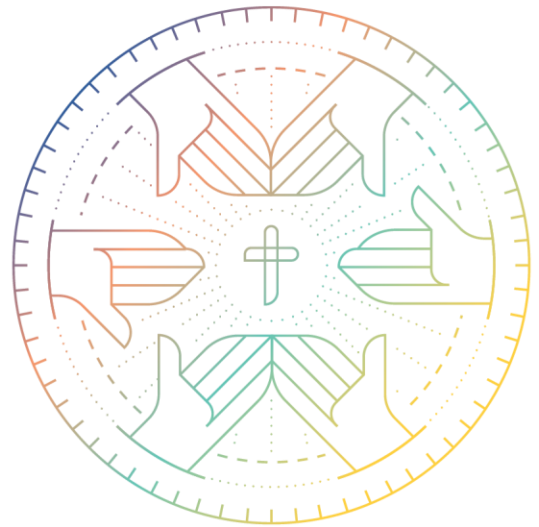
1. After studying Paul's call for us to imitate God can you think of a time when you have felt like it was a hopeless ideal (Great idea but impossible to live out) or saw it as a Challenging goal (I can't wait to prove myself to God).

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. At one point we have all found ourselves identifying our walk with Christ in one of these areas. The focus here is not on providing the right answer but to create an opportunity for reflection and honesty. Offer to share first to allow others in the group to think. This allows you to lead with authenticity. The Solution is being reminded of who we were and what Christ has done for us. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us who we are in Christ and that it is not from what we offer but from God's grace.]*

# Group Life.

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2. **Read Philippians 2:1-4 and Galatians 5:16-26. After reading these passages, where do you need to grow in humility?**

### ***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

[Answers will vary. All Christians, regardless of maturity or authority, are supposed to treat others with humility and selflessness. Second, the focus is not exclusively on others. Paul does not say, "Never look to your own interests." In other words, we are to put the needs of others before our own, but this does not mean we completely avoid caring for our own needs. It's hard to serve other people when your own life, health, or concerns are in ruins. Believers are called to help "others," serving the needs of a group of people. In the case of the Philippians, this included the congregation that met in a house church. Then, spreading to serve those who did not yet know Christ helped to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).]

3. **Read Ephesians 5:25-32. How can your marriage or singleness practically mirror the love between Christ and the Church?**

### ***H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE***

[Answers will vary. Note that Paul's call to walk in love flows from the example that Christ left for us in that we should imitate Him as stated earlier in chapter 5.]

## **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

Dear heavenly Father, help us to look carefully at how we walk. May we understand your will and be filled with your Spirit daily. Help us to give thanks in all that we do and help us to cultivate the humility that leads to healthy submission. May we submit to one another out of reverence to you. Thank you for giving us the perfect example of sacrificial love with your death on the cross. May we walk in that love in all of our relationships this week. We give thanks to you and pray all of this in your wonderful and holy name. Amen.