

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 4:17-20

4 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The unbeliever walks in futility**
- **The unbeliever walks in darkness**
- **The unbeliever walks in death**
- **The unbeliever walks calloused to God**

Read Eph. 4:17-20

- Paul will “testify in the Lord” against believers who are living like unbelieving Gentiles. What tone does this give to the coming discussion? Why is this tone important for the exhortation that follows?
- Who does the “Gentiles” refer to in verse 17?
- Why do you think Paul felt the need to tell the church at Ephesus to “no longer walk as the Gentiles do?”
- The New Testament speaks of Christians having a new mind, a new will, a new heart. What does it mean to be a “new creation” in Christ?
- If we are new creations, why do we still struggle with sin and hypocrisy?
- In what ways have you become “new” since you believed in Christ?

I. The unbeliever walks in futility

- What does it mean that unbelievers walk in the futility of their minds?

- **Leaders Cheat:**
 - The Greek word for “futility” means – pertaining to being useless on basis of being futile or lacking in content – ‘useless, futile, empty, meaningless’
 - The Greek word for “mind” implies – a way of thinking.
- **Read and discuss** Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 and how it relates to Eph. 4:17.
- What was the original purpose of the mind (thinking and reasoning)? How has sin distorted this purpose?
- In what ways are you using your mind to glorify God? In what ways are you falling short in glorifying God with your mind?

II. The unbeliever walks in darkness

- **Read verse 18.** How is the unbeliever’s mind darkened?

III. The unbeliever walks in death

- How is verse 18 a series of causes and effects? What causes what in this verse?
- Why is it important to understand that the hardness of heart causes ignorance and not the other way around? **Read Romans 1:18-20** to help answer this question.
- How does the depravity of the unbeliever affect his thinking?
- Can you disciple an unbeliever? Explain your answer.

IV. The unbeliever walks calloused to God

- What does it mean that an unbeliever can become calloused?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** The Greek word “callous” in Greek means “to lose the capacity to feel shame or embarrassment.”
- In Romans 1:24 it says that “God gave them up in the lust of their hearts to impurity...” What does this mean? And how is it a judgment on the unbeliever?

- What do you think Paul means by saying the unbeliever is “greedy to practice every kind of impurity?”

Read Romans 1:18-24

- According to this passage, why do men suppress the truth?
- In what ways are you tempted to suppress the truth in unrighteousness?
- Do you agree with the following statement? “Every time we sin we are suppressing the truth.” If you agree with this statement, explain why it is true.
- What does it mean that they “exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles?”
- What are some idols in your life that are fighting for your affection?