

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. Feel free to change the order of the questions to suit your group.

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

Ephesians 4:20-32

- In last week’s lesson, Paul reminded believers how they really were before Christ (he will use this to contrast the old life before and the new life in Christ which is this week’s lesson)

Read Ephesians 4:20-32

- In verse 21, Paul continues where we left off last week, using a clothing analogy to illustrate the salvation experience (justification) and the salvation lifestyle (sanctification.)
- Paul give us practical examples of living out the Christian life, “walking in a manner worthy of the calling” we have received. (Ephesians 4:1)

The Five “Put On’s and Put Off’s”

Leader Cheat – Remember that Paul instructs us how to act as individuals, but all of this teaching has to do with our relationships with one another in the life of the church.

I. Put Off Falsehood and Put On Truth (Read verse 25)

- Why do you think Paul led off with “lies and truth?” Was the church at Ephesus full of liars?
- Paul tells us we are “members of one another,” why would we be tempted to speak “falsehoods” to one another?

Leader Cheat - There are many “falsehoods” that we don’t think of as “lies.” Example: Have you ever told someone things were fine when you were struggling and you could have used prayer, encouragement, and possibly counsel?

- How do we build a church family that is able and willing to be transparent?

II. Put Off Anger and Put On Self-Control over Anger (Read verse 26)

- How does our anger give the devil a “foothold” in our church?

Leader Cheat - Anger is a by-product of our pride.

- How can we have victory over pride anger?

III. Put Off a Greedy and Selfish Spirit and Put On Generosity (Read verse 28)

- Do you think there were a lot of “thieves” in the church of Ephesus?

Leader Cheat - The emphasis on this verse is work so you can be generous.

- Based on Paul’s emphasis on generosity, are there any areas where we might be “stealing?”
- What are some real and practical ways we can be generous?

IV. Put Off Mean and Trashy Talk and Put On Words of Life (Read verse 29)

- What are some examples of mean and trashy talk?

Leaders Cheat - Gossip, slander (has malicious intent)...

- How can (and do) we build one another up with our speech (“speak words of life”)?
- How important is timing (as it fits the occasion)?

V. Put Off a Proudful Selfish Hard Heart of Stone and Put On a Humble Christ-like Moldable Heart of Flesh (Read verses 31-32)

- How important is forgiveness to the put off and put on of verses 31 - 32? Why?