



**Week of August 12, 2018**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.

<sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

<sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil.

<sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

<sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

<sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

<sup>NRS</sup> **Ephesians 5:1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,

<sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is your "pet peeve"? (Something that *disproportionately* bothers you?)
- B. Do you think you can "tell" when someone you barely know is a Christian? How?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Do you see any common thread between the instructions of this passage? What theme do you see?
2. What do you think verse 4:28 means? What kind of situation do you think they were facing at the time that gave rise to this instruction?
3. What do you think it means in verse 4:27 about making "room for the devil"? What are other things we do in our lives that "make room for the devil"?
4. Considering verse 5:1, what can you do to be a better "imitator of God"?
5. Considering verse 4:25, what is a difficult conversation that you need to have with someone? What makes it hard to "speak the truth to our neighbors"?
6. Considering verse 4:26, what is something that you are angry about that you would be better off letting go of? How can you "not let the sun go down on your anger"?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about dealing with grievances.