

## ***“Christ In Us: The Ins and Outs of Interaction”***

**Growth Group Guide**

**August 10, 2025**

### **WELCOME** *(Connecting with each other)*

Sunlight. One of the most wonderful gifts God has given us. It transforms things. There are many words in the English language to describe it: dazzling, shimmering, sparkling, bright, warm, surprising and so on. Think of a time you were amazed by the sun shining on a lake, the moon, or through a rain drop. What caught and held your attention? How would you describe the light you saw? Share now.

### **WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER** *(Connecting with God)*

Read the verses below. Take some time to praise and thank God that in Christ, the Light, we are transformed.

John 12:46 (NIV) “[Jesus said,] ‘I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.’”

John 8:12b (NLT) “[Jesus said,] ‘...I am the light of the world.’”

John 12:36b (VOICE) “[Jesus said,] ‘...believe in the light; and you will be reborn as sons *and daughters* of the light.’”

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) “...you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own...As a result you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness **into his wonderful light.**”

### **WORD** *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. When you think about approaching God, do you feel as though you need to change something, or a lot, about yourself? If so, why do you think that is?
2. **Read Ephesians 5:8.** What do we discover about who we are in Christ? How does this make it possible for us to approach God? For further help, **read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 and Colossians 1:12.**
3. **Read Ephesians 3:12.** Knowing that we are light in Christ, how does this verse take on new meaning? Discuss other things about being in Christ that gives us freedom and confidence to approach God.
4. Being in God’s presence doesn’t mean we need to stand or sit in silence. He wants to talk with us. How might we learn about talking with God from King David in the Psalms?
5. Being healthy in our relationship and interactions with God, allows us, with Him, to approach interactions with others in healthy ways too. **Read Ephesians 4:31-32.** What are some important elements we must work through with God, so that we interact well with others? What identity do we have in Christ that makes this possible (end of v32)?
6. How have you defined forgiveness? After hearing the sermon, would you define it differently now? If so, how?

7. Based on the sermon, how is our forgiveness with others different from what we have with God?
8. How is reconciliation different from forgiveness? Are these things we can do in our own effort? Why or why not?
9. **Read Luke 23:34.** Should we extend forgiveness to non-Christians? Can we expect they will be able to return it? Why or why not?
10. **Read Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 5:8, and Galatians 2:4.** How do these verses frame our interactions with non-Christians? What sort of things about them and their actions should we be aware of?

### **WALK** *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Living in Christ changes how we interact with God and others.** We never know exactly where someone is in their spiritual journey, but as Children of Light we are enabled to display Jesus accurately through us to others no matter who they are. Also, we can interact with God in healthy and positive ways as never before. To process this a bit more, look at the questions below.
  - How can your interaction with God change knowing you are light (like Him, *in Him*)? Can you come to Him in freedom and confidence? Does knowing He gladly welcomes you and wants to talk with you change anything for you? If you still want to run or perform, ask Him why?
  - Does your interaction with others, whether Christians or non-Christians, need to change at all? Is there unforgiveness to deal with? Are you stuck trying to work out reconciliation with someone? Talk with God. Ask Him for your part, and let the other person be responsible for theirs.

### **WORLD** *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

One Hope, the non-profit who compiles our “See the City” prayer guides and monthly prayer updates, has a few wonderful testimonies from July. They report, “Sheriff Carl Wilkerson was unanimously appointed, despite earlier signs the vote might be 3-2. He is praised for being “unbearably honest, having unwavering character and being driven by principle.” Plus, he was raised up by our last sheriff, Cliff Harrold. **Pray for our new sheriff to have the Lord’s blessing, protection, and wisdom. Pray for God’s wisdom, guidance, and provision for our Public Safety Agencies. Behind the Request: On June 23, the Springfield City Council voted unanimously to refer the new fire levy to the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. This would provide some funding to reduce the 528 unit hours of brownouts (the temporary removal of a fire engine or other specialized units from service at Springfield fire stations) over the next year. On June 24 the Lane County Public Safety Task Force released its report with many recommendations for funding. The county is considering what to implement now.”**

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalm 127:1

*[Copies of this Guide are available at <https://thurston.church/resources>]*