

Next Steps 3

Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-2

Ask them this:

What purpose does a mirror serve? What would cause that mirror to not serve its purpose?

Say something like this:

Jesus' second piece in Matthew 4:19 is his statement, "I will make you." In order to be disciples by Jesus, we need to allow him to change our hearts. Paul writes about this in multiple places, but let's look at what he has to say in Ephesians.

Read this:

Ephesians 4:17-24; 5:1-2

Ask them this:

Paul tells the Ephesians that they need to live different than non-believers. What should be the visible difference between someone who follows Jesus and someone who doesn't?

What do you think Paul means by "separated from the life of God?"

Jesus said, "Deny yourself." Paul here says, "...put off your old self." What does it mean to "put on the new self?"

Say something like this:

Reading that Paul tells us to follow God's example or "be imitators of God" sparks the question, what does that look like? What does it look like to put on this "new self?" Paul answers that question for us.

Read this:

Ephesians 4:25-32

Ask them this:

Verse 32 sums this whole section in one sentence. Looking back at it though, what does it mean to "be kind and compassionate to one another?"

Say something like this:

Now that we've talked about the biblical story, let's talk about how this applies to our own lives and the vision of the church.

Ask them this:

What causes YOU (*not people in general*) to fall short of your purpose as a mirror reflecting God's glory? What are you maybe reflecting instead?

The beauty of this transformation is that we don't do it ourselves. We place ourselves in the position for God to change us. What's something you need to do more of in order to place yourself in this position?

What is the purpose of all of this though? Why do we need to imitate Jesus?

Challenge them with this:

One thing that Jesus did during his ministry was be present. He was incredibly busy, but he was never rushed. He always had his head up paying attention to his surroundings. This week, look up. In the business of our everyday schedules, let's try to look up and notice opportunities to worship God and reflect God. Where do you need to do this the most this week?