



Connect Group Discussion Guide
Sunday Message - 7/5/20 | Chuck Sackett | X

NEW Sings a Song:

Key Scriptures:

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Ephesians 5:15–20

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (ESV)

- Romans 8:26

*To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.*

*Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.
Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds;
give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.
Because they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands,
he will tear them down and build them up no more.*

*Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

*The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.*

- Psalm 28

Message Highlights:

- The world feels like it has come unglued; it seems out of character for who we ought to be as a people.
- The Bible helps us contemplate how to be better equipped to live effectively.
- Each of us brings something unique to this new song—it's how God has wired us to be.
- We have mutual edification, thanksgiving, and submission so we can sing this new song.
- Worship is a way that we declare with our lives that we are in allegiance to God.
- Giving thanks is a lifestyle (always and for everything).
- God is always on His throne. Worship is our declaration of who He is in the midst of our circumstances. We utterly depend on Him for everything.
- "Be filled with the Spirit." This is a collective responsibility we all share have—to keep continually be filled by the Spirit. We can't do it for ourselves, but God will fill us as we give ourselves wholly to him.

Conversation Starter:

- What habits do you cultivate that allow you to be filled with the Spirit?

Discuss the Message:

1. What have you learned from the Bible that helps you live more effectively during these challenging times?
2. Consider John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease." Do you see that happening in our present reality? Why or why not?
3. What do you sense God may be leading his people to do in response to our current circumstances?
4. If you had to summarize your understanding of the will of the Lord, what would you say?
5. Look at Ephesians 5:15-17: "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Think carefully about your walk. How do we make the best use of the time? What is the relationship between "the days are evil" and how we make use of our time?
6. What does it mean to "give ourselves wholly to God?" In what areas of your life are you fully dependent upon God? In what areas do you struggle with this?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.

Father, Thank You for being present with us in all circumstances. Thank You for loving us through all circumstances. Forgive us for being slow to offer You thanks for the many blessings that you lavish on us and the miracles that we so easily overlook every day.

Holy Spirit, fill us! Teach to be completely surrendered to the Father's good and perfect will so that we can become the people He created us to be.

Jesus, thank you for showing us how to live a fully surrendered life. Thank you for the cross. It is a gift we cannot begin to fully comprehend. Thank you for giving your life for us while we were still sinners. Please help us to live lives that are entirely filled with gratitude because of what you have done for us. May all honor, praise, and glory be yours forever.

