

## **EPHESIANS**

Week of March 17th

### **DISCUSSION AND STUDY**

ICE BREAKER QUESTION – What’s something you’ve always wanted to do but haven’t done yet?  
Why not?

### **SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION AND STUDY**

**INTRO** – In this passage, believers are called to imitate God and live a life characterized by love, purity, and discernment.

**READ** – Ephesians 5:1-7

**QUESTION** – In verse one, we are called to “be imitators of God, as beloved children.” What are some of the characteristics of God? How did we become God’s children (see Ephesians 1:5)?

**QUESTION** – Paul tells us to walk in love in verse two. Who did Paul give as example of love? What does perfect love involve? How can meditating on Christ’s love help us to grow in love for others?

**QUESTION** – In verses three and four, Paul warns against sexual immorality, impurity, greed, and corrupt talk. How do these behaviors impact our relationships with others and our witness as Christians? How can we guard against them?

**QUESTION** – Paul says that we should replace corrupt talk with thanksgiving. How can a heart of gratitude help us overcome corrupt speech? What (or who) are we focused on when we are thankful?

**QUESTION** – Paul warns that whoever persists in this dark lifestyle will not inherit the kingdom of God (verse 5). Read Mark 8:36. How does this warning impact you? As repentant believers, what is the good news we have (1 Corinthians 6:11)?

**QUESTION** – Paul calls Christians to walk in love but also to “not become partners” with those persisting in these sins (verse 7). How can we do this? Be practical.

**Close in Prayer**

## Prayer for our Ethiopia Mission Team

**Participants:** Seth Koertner, Robbie Severson, Micah Severson, Will Danielson, Chad Heckathorn, Carter Heckathorn, Moira Duncan, Cindy Schmitz, Duane Auch, Mary Auch, Samuel Getachew

### Prayer Requests:

**Travel** – ease of airplane connections, safety in travelling by plane and Land Cruiser trips, keeping track of luggage and belongings so we don't lose anything, patience with unplanned delays and changes in plans, strength and energy for long overland trips.

**Health and Safety** – Sleep on the airplane and in accommodations in Ethiopia, adjustment to time change, protection from any injury, protection from any infections and illness, consistency in applying hygiene rules for eating and drinking local foods and beverages, tolerance and enjoyment of food, energy for all the things we will be doing.

**Relationships** – Team unity, fun together as a group, grace and humility to handle irritations, forgiveness when needed, flexible attitudes.

**Cultural Adjustment** – Development of love for Ethiopians, ability to handle evidence of poverty that may be disturbing, ability to look beyond the lack of stuff they possess to see their real need for Jesus or their faith in Him as Believers, ability to see the way Ethiopians do things as "different" not wrong or inadequate.

**Ministry** – Changed lives in Ethiopians and our own lives, good preparation for trip, preparation of team members to be able to share the right verses with Ethiopians that they need to hear, deepened faith, to be good ambassadors of the Gospel, Hillside Church, and Adams Thermal Foundation. Ability to see the Kingdom of God being established in the lives of Ethiopians and our own lives, encouragement of team members and the local church. Connection and love for the sponsored kids we meet. Pastor Robbie as he preaches.

**Spiritual Growth** - Pray that our eyes would be open to see what God wants us to see regarding what He is doing in Ethiopia and our hearts, pray that the Holy Spirit would prepare our hearts and go before us to prepare the hearts of those we will see, peace in our hearts, wisdom, lots of love for the Lord and trust, direction for future mission involvement as a church and personally.