

One: A Study in Ephesians
Small Group Discussion Resource
Ephesians 5:1-20

1. Open in prayer and then read through the passage, Ephesians 5:1-20 together. Pause to see if anyone has any thoughts after verses 2, 7, 14, and 20.
2. Think back to when you were a kid, what were some of the biggest influences in your life? Was it music? TV shows? Sports? Celebrities? Peers? Fashion? What was the effect on you, your life, your friends?
3. Throughout his letters, Paul often refers to the idea of “spiritual fathers” and Godly examples. When you think of your faith journey, have there been “spiritual parents”, mentors, or Godly examples in your life?
4. When we think of being an “imitator of Christ”, what comes to mind? Is this an easy task? Why or why not?
5. Paul introduces this idea of being followers of God’s example through the lens of being the “dearly loved children of God”, why is it so important that we understand ourselves with this relationship? What is the danger for us in our spiritual journey if we miss out on this truth, gloss over it, or downplay its significance?
6. Interact with this quote from J.I. Packer:
“What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God for his Father.”
7. Read John 1:12-13, what stands out to you as you consider how John describes the relationship between God and us?
8. Read Ephesians 1:5, what is the significance of God having chosen us for adoption?
9. If we’re going to imitate God, then it’s important that we know God. There were two primary means mentioned for accomplishing this: His Word, and Prayer. Why is it so significant that we invest our time in these spiritual disciplines?

10. Our world often portrays God as either a mean old man, out to get us, or as someone that is totally unconcerned with the bad things we do, or sometimes as a slot machine where we pull the lever and hope He pays out what we want. What is the problem with seeing God in any of those ways?

God is loving, and God is Holy, and God is a giver of good gifts, but what does the Bible *actually* say about these things and how does it hold them in tension?

11. Re-read verses 3-20. Paul provides a list of things that we cannot have, and at a few points like in verses 8 and 19-20 demonstrates what we should be doing instead. What does this tell us about our behaviour as dearly loved Children of God? If you have children, or thinking back to your own experience as a child, what is the relationship between a parent and their kid like?
12. The quality that Paul applies to the beginning of this chapter as we attempt to follow God's example is that we would "walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us...". When you think of Christ's love for us, what are the characteristics of that love that stand out? How does that inform what our walk should be like?
13. What is the danger of being too comfortable in our faith? If all of us who are part of the body of Christ have a ministry to participate in, what is the call to action for us? For you specifically?
14. Spend some time together as a group praying about your ministry.
- Where you should be serving?
 - What is God calling you to be a part of?
 - What spiritual discipline is God asking you to start?
 - Who is God calling you to mentor or disciple?
 - How is God asking you to step up?