

Week 04 Small group

Live in Love and Light

TRANSFORMED
LIVING

Warm up question

What family likenesses do you see in yourself that you recognise in your parents or children?

Read

Read Ephesians 5:1-14.

Study

1. In verses 1-2 Paul invites us to become imitators of God. What kind of people do children tend to imitate most? Is it different for adults? What will make the difference between being unintentional imitators of our culture, and intentional imitators of God?

2. In verses 3-7 Paul has some strong words to say about a number of things, but particularly about sexual immorality, impurity (the Greek word means moral filthiness, especially in relation to sexual sin) and greed. These three are mentioned twice, the second time (verse 5) in connection with our future inheritance.

- To what extent are these still significant issues today?
- What has the greatest influence over our beliefs about these areas – the current culture or the Bible's teaching?
- How do we strike the right balance between standing up for God's truth and accepting all in Christ's name? ("Loving the sinner, but hating the sin").

3. Paul talks about a failure to enjoy God's inheritance (verse 5) and God's wrath (verse 6). Do we talk about these things enough?

4. In verses 8-14 Paul contrasts light and darkness. What are we to embrace from the light? What are we to reject from the darkness?

5. What does exposing the deeds of darkness look like in practical terms? When and how are we to do it?

5. How can we 'find out what pleases the Lord' (verse 10)?

Pray

Pray for each other this week to become *more aware* of how we unintentionally imitate our culture in its thinking and practice, and *more committed* to intentionally imitating God instead.