

Week 05 Small group

Live in Wisdom and by the Spirit

TRANSFORMED
LIVING

Warm up question

Who are the people you have turned to for wise advice in your life? Think of a time when you feel you have really made the most of an opportunity. When did you see a great opportunity slip by?

Read

Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

Study

1. How would you define wisdom? Why do you think wisdom is important in living a transformed life?
2. Scan back over Ephesians 4:17-5:14. What does “making the most of every opportunity” mean in this context?
3. What are the two negative and two positive commands in verses 17-18? How do you put them into practice?
4. Verse 20 reads “always giving thanks to God the Father for everything”. “We cannot thank God for blatant evil” (John Stott). So what does this verse mean?
5. “If you don’t want your garden to grow weeds, one of the best ways is to keep it well stocked with strong, sturdy flowers and shrubs. If you don’t want your mind and heart to go wandering off into the realms of darkness, one of the best ways is to keep them well stocked with wise and thankful themes ...” (Tom Wright). How do you do this, to make verses 19-20 a reality in your life?
6. Verse 21 acts as a summary of the general principle of living a life of love (5:1), but also as an introduction to its application in specific contexts (5:22-6:9). To submit means to subordinate oneself. What attitudes do we need to adopt to do this?

Pray

Turn some of what you have learnt into prayer for the coming week, being as specific as you are able concerning your personal circumstances.