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## PRAYER

Thank you, God, that you engaged us in your love for us by sending your Son, Jesus, and by sending those who help us know and experience your love. Help us to be your vessels to draw people towards this same love from a God who loves them. We love you, in Jesus' name, Amen.

## WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

Phone call, text, or email: if you could only choose one as a mode of communication, which one would you choose and why?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them. <sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

<sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Ephesians 5:1-20 \(ESV\)](#)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = not at all, 10 = very connected), how would you rate your ability to engage with people in face-to-face conversations? Why?
2. Read verses 5-7. What do you think Paul means by "empty words" and not being partners with people who speak them?

3. How do you think Christians should engage culture without being caught in the vices and idolatry of the world?
4. What practical ways can we be careful in how we live, yet make the most of every opportunity to shine God's light, despite the evil times we live in? (See verses 13-17).
5. Paul exhorts the Ephesian church with, "Wake up sleeper." What does this mean? How can we stay "woke", and are you awakened the same way Paul implies here?

## PRAYER LIST