



FOR CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND FAMILY BIBLE STUDY TIMES



UP – (let's worship God first):

Pray - Open up in a prayer of gratitude. What are you thankful for? (*Thankfulness towards God, cultivates a lifestyle of worship.*)



BACK – (let's reflect on last week):

Testimonies - Any testimonies for what you are thankful for? How did last week's lesson impact your life? Have you applied it in your life or shared it with someone else last week? (*Testimonies builds our faith and accountability cultivates a lifestyle of obedience.*)



IN – (together discover new truths):

Discover – What new truths can we learn from the following verses? (*Word based convictions, cultivates a lifestyle of truth and faith.*)

Ask someone in the group to read **Ephesians 5:1-2**. Maybe ask someone else to read it again in a different translation before you proceed.

1. Our calling as God's Children.

***Ephesians 5:1-2.** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- What do you learn from this scripture?
- According to this scripture, what should our lives witness to when we imitate God?
- Who serves as our example?

2. Christlikeness is at the center on imitating God the Father.

- ***Hebrews 1:1-3.** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
- ***1 Colossians 1:15.** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

- How is Christ described in these passages?
- What does it mean that Christ is the radiance of God's glory, the exact imprint of God's nature?
- How do these passages help us to imitate God?

3. The Worker of Christlikeness.

- **2 Corinthians 3:18.** *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

- Who is referred to as "the glory of the Lord?" (Heb 1:1-3)
- In this scripture who is referred to as the Worker of Christlikeness?

4. Watch me. The Call of Parenting/discipleship is a call to Christlikeness.

- **1 Corinthians 11:1.** *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*
- **1 Timothy 3:10-11a, 14.** *You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra...(14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it.*
- What do you learn from these scriptures?
- What does Paul's life testify about?
- What does Paul encourage his disciples to pursue?



OUT – (let's apply what we have just learned):

Application – Reflecting on today's scripture discoveries, what convicts you? What do you feel the Holy Spirit is asking you to do?

Take some time and commit to allow these truths to transform you. End off praying for lost people.

We can see through these scripture discoveries that serving is part of who we are as followers of Jesus. We want to encourage you to look for opportunities to serve someone else this week. It might just open up a door to share the Gospel with them.