



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Eph. 5:15-18*

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** Ephesians 5:15-21

### Sermon Summary:

In Eph. 5:16, Paul states something that if we aren't careful we will miss its importance. He says ***the days we are living in are evil!*** In the entire book of Ephesians he continually alerts us to the oppressive, divisive and destructive work of the evil cosmic powers. But he also shines light on God's mission in Christ that defeated them, and released people from every tribe, tongue and nation from their bondage. But just because we are released from their control in Christ doesn't mean we can live in a manner that is oblivious to their continued influences in our days.

In Ephesians 5:15-18, Paul gives us an overarching principle and two practical ways to navigate through the darkness and evil we live in. We are encouraged to first lean into God's wisdom and then walk in it by understanding his will and by being continually filled by his Spirit. These very things give us the way to make the most of every opportunity in our lives by demonstrating the Christian life to our family members, friends, colleagues, neighbours and classmates.

### Discussion:

1. What are some examples that you see of “active & pernicious evil” today? How does Eph. 6:12 help us understand who is really behind all this activity?
2. What are the three contrasts that Paul lays out for us to live wisely today?
3. What is God’s will in Ephesians? Think cosmically, globally and personally.
4. It would be my assertion that the Bible is the best way to know God’s will. How has the Bible helped you to know what God’s will is?
5. Paul doesn’t suggest, but commands us to be continually filled by God’s Spirit. This isn’t a once-for-all experience, but rather a day-by-day requirement. What have you found helps you be filled by the Spirit? What evidences do you see in your life that you are filled?

**End with Prayer.**

- Pray for all to walk wisely in these evil days.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.