

## **Sermon Discussion Guide, Ephesians 4:17-24**

### **Putting on the New Self: A New Mind**

#### **Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)**

- Any major news to share since you last met? Joys or concerns? (Note them below for prayer later). \*\*In the first meeting- extra time is taken for introductions and getting acquainted with each other.

Opener Question: When were you most excited to receive a new set of clothes? What did it feel like when you put them on?

#### **➤ Review the Sermon (15 min)**

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Ephesians 4:17-24. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.**

**<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How does Paul describe the old self or life before Christ (vs. 17-19)?
- How do verses 18 and 19 describe different dimensions of the old self?
- Paul himself had a dramatic conversion from being a persecutor of the church to being its servant and evangelist (Acts 9:1-9). How do you think Paul identified himself with this description of the old self?
- According to verses 20-22, what appears to be Paul's prior advice to them about how to deal with the sins of the old self?
- How can our desires be deceitful (vs 22)? How was this present with Eve and Adam in the garden of Eden?
- How is Christ making us new different than us working to change ourselves in a self-help program (vs 23-24)?
- What then is required of us in this change of becoming a new creation in Christ?

### **Other Related Readings (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Colossians 3:9-10, Romans 6:4-6, and Romans 13:14?
- How do these verses reinforce what Paul wrote in the Ephesians passages above?
- How are these ideas communicated in the ritual or sacrament of baptism?
- How do the vows taken parallel the experience of Jesus Christ dying on the cross and being raised to new life in the resurrection?

### **Personalizing and Applying the Message (10 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How does the choice to put on the new self in Christ govern all the other life choices that follow?
- Is your testimony in becoming a Christian more of a sudden dramatic kind that is tied to a particular moment or is it a more gradual experience?
- Are you able to briefly share your testimony (about 10 minutes) of your putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ?
- Would you be willing to try to write it down this week?
- What would it mean for us to stay humble and stay hungry in a relationship with God this week?
- How is the truth of God's word being brought into the new self and mind we are being given in Christ?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- Is there someone on your heart today who is stuck in the old self that you would like the group to pray for to put on the new self in Christ in surrender?
- What kind of ways might there be to show Christian compassion to them or the gospel message itself?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the joys or concerns shared earlier in the meeting and others as well.