



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on July 4, 2021

Sermon: The Nature and Purpose of Church
Text: Ephesians 5:8-21

Gathering Guidelines

Watch the Intro video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fArf53zb_fQ

Take some time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PjSO5IhI0M> Faithful One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue8ZCAc9xQ8> How Marvelous

Read

Ephesians 5:8-21

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

If you could choose one event you would want to participate in for the Olympics (summer or winter) what would it be?

Question #1:

Verse 8 says: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”
What do you think this means and how do you think your presence affects others around you because of this light?

Question #2:

Verse 8 also says: “Live as children of light.”
If Jesus has made you a child of light (being saved and a member of God’s family) then why do you think we are told to also make the choice to live as children of light?

Question #3:

Verse 10 says that we should 'find out what pleases the Lord.' And verse 17 says that we should 'understand what the Lord's will is.'

There are two important ways that we grow in understanding what pleases the Lord and what His will is. The first is found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The second is found in John 14:26.

Both of these things require us to do something to pursue these things. Read Matthew 7:7-8 and talk about what this might look like in your life.

Question #4:

Verse 18 says that we should 'be filled with the Spirit' and then proceeds to explain things that we can do in order to be filled:

- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. (Talk to each other about spiritual things.)
- Make music in your heart to the Lord. (Include Jesus in your day. . .talk to Him and let Him talk to you.)
- Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of Jesus Christ. (Cultivate a grateful heart. Don't know how? Start small and grow from there.)

When we do the things that please God, the Holy Spirit pours out blessing and joy into our lives. . .this is an example of being filled.

Question #5:

It seems that God is inviting us (His church) to *grow*. We grow by agreeing to do the things that He asks us to do (see the many things mentioned above).

James 1:22 says that we should not just read God's word but that we should *do* God's word.

Why do you think it's important for us to not just read the Bible, but to do what it says? How do you think this would impact us if we did that?

Invitation and Mission for this week

Use Ephesians 5:18 as your guide this week. Purpose to do at least one of the things mentioned there, and do it intentionally at least once a day, during a time *you wouldn't normally spend with God*. So, for example, if you are out working in your garden, then include Jesus in your time there. Talk to Him and give thanks for the blessing of being able to work in the dirt and see good things grow. You choose which one of the three things you want to do and then do it.

Pray for each other