

“Walk in the light” Ephesians 5:1-14

1. These verses refer to the Christian life as a walk: *What are three ways in which we are encouraged to walk?* v5, v8, v15
2. v2 We are encouraged to imitate our heavenly father and to be like Jesus. *Name some people in the bible who were radically changed after their encounter with Jesus? How has your life changed since your encounter with Jesus?*
3. Jesus was always gracious and forgiving. Share an occasion when you were offered grace. *What effect did that action have on you?*
4. In society today we are encouraged to “pay it forward”. *Can someone explain what that means? How can we as believers “pay it forward”*
5. Divide a sheet of paper into two columns and entitle them “darkness” and “light”. From verses 3-14 list in these columns the thoughts, words, and actions, which characterize the old life and the new life.
6. v3-4. Paul points out a negative progression of obscenity, foolish talk, coarse jokes. These lead to immorality, impurity, greed and idolatry. Even though God's spirit indwells believers, our actions are the result of our choices. *Have you known “full on” believers who have made a series of wrong choices? What caused them to change?*
7. People today are still being deceived concerning immorality, impurity and covetousness (v 6). The ‘new morality’ says that any sexual acts are all right as long as they are meaningful and don’t hurt anyone & that ‘love’ as a motive makes any act legitimate. *Discuss.*
8. v4b But instead let there be thanksgiving. Don’t be obsessed with all the negative stuff. Stop listing in your mind all the bad things that have happened or that could go wrong. Be thankful for the good things. *Are you able to live in an attitude of gratitude or do your thoughts more likely to default to the negative stuff? Discuss.*
9. v8 “though your hearts were once filled with darkness, now you are full of light from the Lord, and your behaviour should show it’. Eleanor Roosevelt said “I’d rather light a candle than curse the darkness”. Light is necessary for physical life, growth, and reveals the true nature of things. *Give some examples of ways you can light a candle.*

10. Postmodernism believes that 'everyone is entitled to their own truth...' This thinking is also infiltrating the Church and it has made many fearful of sharing their beliefs. *Why is it that people tolerate other viewpoints, but are often intolerant of Christians?*
11. v9 Paul says a life lived in light will produce a harvest of what is 'good, and right and true'. Often what we do is more important than what we say. *What beautiful fruit are you seeking to grow in your life and the lives of those whom you influence?*

Pray for each other as we walk this journey called life, that we will allow God's light to shine through us and dispel the darkness around us.