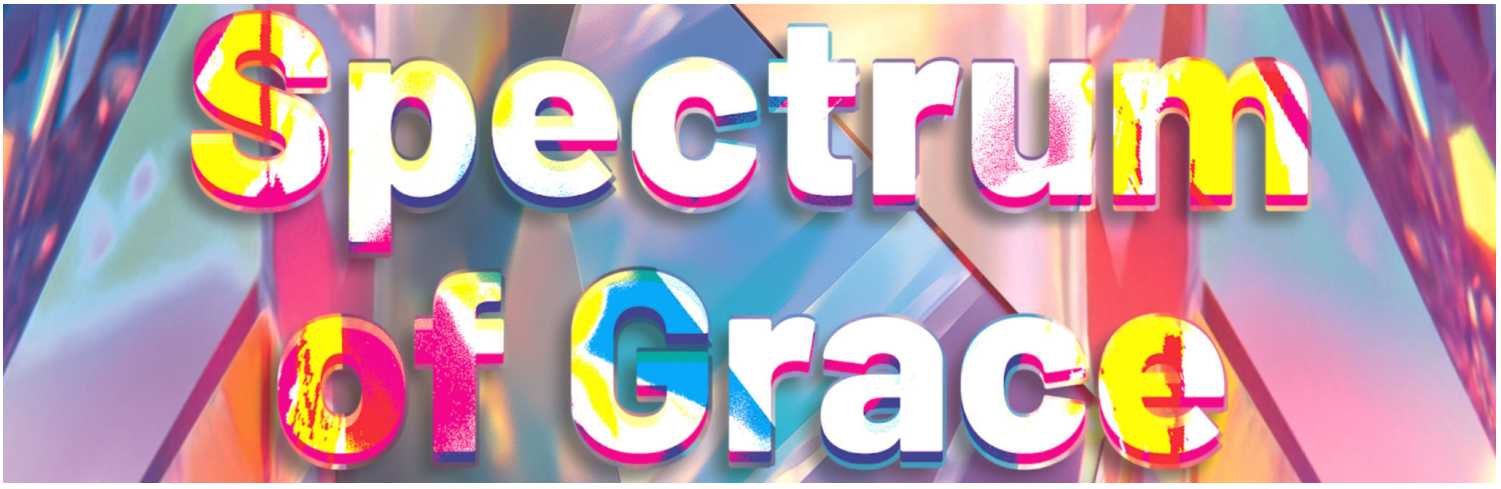


Week of August 2, 2026 - The Invitation Out Of Darkness Small Group Lesson 15

Connect

Share about a time when you could clearly tell someone was just giving you "lip service" versus a time you unexpectedly received genuine, heartfelt gratitude from another. How did those two different experiences affect you?

Verses - Ephesians 5:1-8a (NKJV)

Read aloud:

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet- smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to v.2, how exactly did Christ demonstrate His love for us? How does His willing sacrifice serve as the ultimate example for us to imitate God?

2. Paul lists impure behaviors that should "not even be named" among believers (v.3). According to v.4, what specific action and attitude must replace foolish or coarse talk?

3. In v.6, Paul warns against being deceived by "empty words." Based on the text, who exactly receives the wrath of God, and what is the specific command for believers in v.7?

4. Notice v.8 says we were once darkness (not in darkness). Because we are now light in the Lord, how should this radical change in our nature affect our daily walk?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Jesse compared our past, sinful lives to bags of dirty, contagious "snot rags" that deserve to be incinerated. Yet, God saved us by sacrificing something of infinite value—Jesus. When you really think about the contrast between what we were and the ultimate price paid for us, how does it change your sense of awe and thankfulness toward God this week?

Discuss 2:
We learned that true obedience requires two wills: God's will to direct us, and our will to submit. Jesus didn't have His life taken from Him; He willingly laid it down. Is there an area in your life where you know what God is calling you to do, but you haven't yet willingly submitted your own will to His? What is holding you back?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.