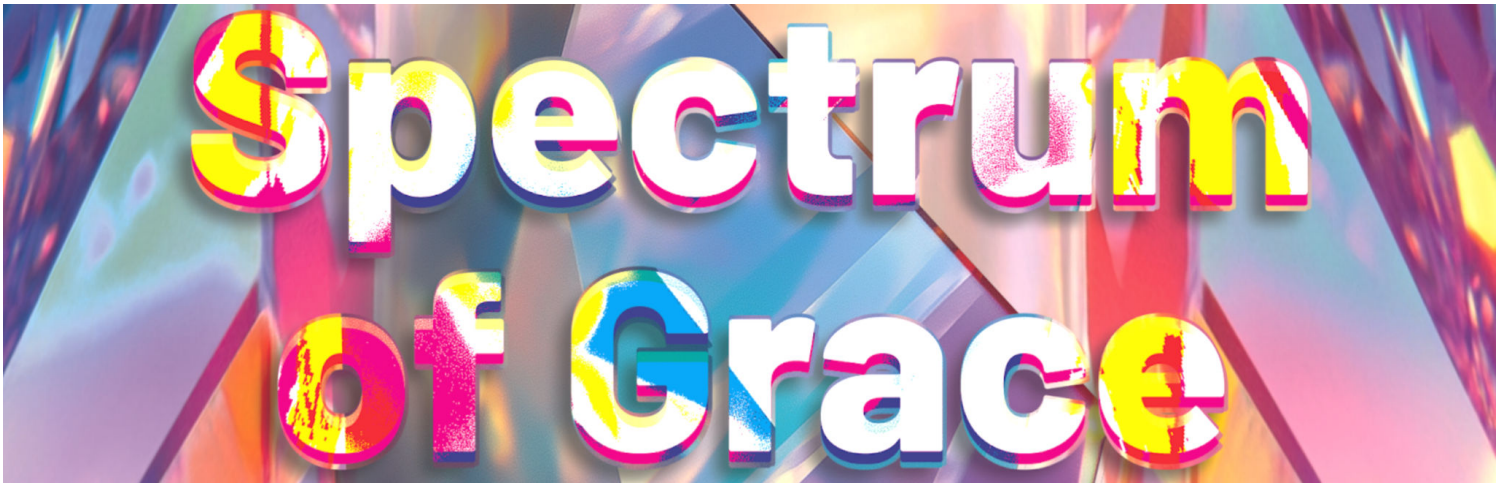


Week of August 30, 2026 - Step Into the Light Small Group Lesson 16

Connect

Share a time you knew about something or someone well, but after experiencing the real thing or person, it completely changed your perspective. Why do you think your initial understanding was wrong? What was it like afterwards?

Verses - Ephesians 5:8b-21 (NKJV)

Read aloud:

8b Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

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

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In vv.8-10, Paul tells us to walk as children of light and find out what is acceptable to the Lord. According to v.11, what is the practical method given for knowing what is acceptable, and what is our responsibility toward the darkness?

2. Paul urges believers to walk circumspectly and to redeem the time because the days are evil (vv.15-16). What does it practically look like for a Christian to "redeem the time" in their daily walk?

3. v.17 commands us to understand the will of the Lord rather than being unwise. How does walking in the light help us naturally discern God's will without needing to intimately acquaint ourselves with evil?

4. In vv.18-21, Paul contrasts getting drunk with wine with being filled with the Spirit. What are the four active ways (the verbs ending in "-ing") of being filled with the Spirit? How do they build upon each other to create a unified church?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Jesse compared walking circumspectly to an acrobat walking a tightrope in the dark, where every step must land precisely and the only thing illuminating the next step is the spotlight of God's Word. Where in your life do you feel like you are walking in the dark right now, and how can you rely on God's "spotlight" to guide your next step?

Discuss 2:
Pastor Jesse highlighted that worship isn't complete until we reach the final step: "submitting to one another in the fear of God" (v.21). Why is mutual submission so important for a church community to reflect Christ's light, and what is one practical way you can practice this in your relationships this week?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.