COMMUNITY LIFE

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

MAIN POINT

A new identity in Christ leads to a new way of living for His followers.

INTRODUCTION

What are some habits that you would like to change or give up altogether? Why is it so difficult to make these types of changes?

Almost all people have habits they wish they could shake or patterns of living they wish they could change. However, the process of change is rarely easy, and seeking to change behaviors sometimes makes them worse before they are better. Spiritual change is even more difficult because the change needed is not just in our behavior, but in our hearts. Yet, Christ died so that His people could experience true change. In Ephesians 4, Paul encouraged his readers to put off the ways of the world and put on the new self in Christ by the renewing of their minds.

DISCUSSION

> EPHESIANS 4:17-32.

What was the purpose of the Gentiles' lives? What did they live for? How should Christians be different from the people described in these verses?

How does Paul's description of Gentile behavior in the first century help us understand how to live today?

In what ways have you seen people's hearts hardened or people darkened in their understanding? Does anyone have a personal example of how your life was like this before coming to know Jesus?

Where does transformation start for a believer?

What does it mean "to put off your old self"? To "put on your new self"? What does that tell you about the old nature and new nature?

What are the things in the world that are the hardest to take off? How do those things hurt transformation?

How do our relationships with others reflect a different way of life from the rest of the world? Give specific examples of actions in those relationships that grieve and please God.

According to verse 32, what should be the primary motivation for pursuing holy living?

APPLICATION

How have your attitudes, actions, and thoughts changed since turning your life over to God? Is there anything you are particularly struggling to "put off" from your former way of life? How can our group encourage you in that effort?