

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF JULY 20, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS
Intentional Living

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose"
-Jim Elliot

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."

1 Corinthians 1:18, 20-21

THIS WEEK'S TEXT
Ephesians 5:15-21

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

1 Cor 1, 14; Rom 12:2; 1 Thes 4, 5; Titus 1:6; 1 Pet 4:4; Acts 16; Col 3:16; Jam 1, 5:13; Heb 13; Phil 2

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The opening instruction in this passage (especially the first two words)
 - The duration and purpose of our "time"
 - The antithesis of "foolishness"
 - The state of being "drunk with wine"
 - The different elements of how to address another believer
 - The instruction to give thanks
 - The consequence of our reverence for Christ
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- In what ways do you consider God in your decisions – both big and small?
- What is your “prevailing view of reality”? If there are two major paradigms – biblical wisdom and worldly foolishness – out of which paradigm do you generally operate?
- What are some decisions that would be considered biblically wise but foolish according to the world?
- What are some decisions that would be considered wise according to “conventional wisdom”, but foolish to the way of God?
- What are some examples of the Holy Spirit heightening your experience and perception of reality?

“He dares to be a fool, and that is the first step in the direction of wisdom.”

-James Gibbons Huneker

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 5:8

This Week: Eph 5:15-17

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (July):

Apostles Church wants to be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for his perfect wisdom
- Praising God for pouring out His Spirit on the Church
- Confessing our tendency to foolishly waste time
- Confessing our desire to be drunk on the world rather than on the Spirit
- Thanking God for revealing wisdom in the Gospel of Jesus
- Thanking Christ for gladly submitting to the Father
- Asking for wisdom and clear vision as we assess the intentionality of our lives
- Asking to be increasingly sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to be controlled by Him alone

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Life Together*– Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *The Radical Reformation* – Mark Driscoll
- *Confessions* – St. Augustine
- *The Pursuit of God* – A.W. Tozer

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 5:22-33