



Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily
the Gospel of the Church


“Distinct”

Ephesians 5:7-21

Rev. Brandon Laurantzon, November 8 & 9, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 5:7-21. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Like *Where’s Waldo?*, someone looking across the western cultural landscape might ask, “Where’s the Christian?” In what ways do you think Christians compromise and blend in too much with culture? Discuss the following quote by G.K. Chesterton: “A dead thing goes with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.”
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

DISTINCT: LIGHT

- 3 In your own words, how are Christians called to be light in the world? How do Christians’ good works expose the unfruitful works of darkness? What are some examples of darkness that you see around you?

- 4 Read Ephesians 5:13-14 in the J.B. Phillips translation:
“For light is capable of ‘showing up’ everything for what it really is. It is even possible (after all, it happened to you!) for light to turn the thing it shines upon into light also.”

How did light and darkness relate to the apostle Paul and his calling?

- 5 Paul quotes an early Christian hymn when he writes,
“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

How are these words a succinct description of the gospel? Who is someone you long to see Christ shine on?

DISTINCT: WISDOM

- 6 Do you feel like you are wise with how you use your time? How does the culture encourage you to use your time? How might Jesus want you to make the best use of your time?
- 7 How can believers handcuff themselves when it comes to understanding the will of God? Brandon said, “Don’t ask God to tell you what to do.” How should you pray instead? Can you recall a time recently when you “knew what to do”, even though God didn’t specifically tell you?

DISTINCT: SPIRIT-FILLED

- 8 Everyone worship something – what makes a Christian distinct? What two dynamics take place during worship? Do you enjoy worship? Why or why not?
- 9 What was the point of the joke about the atheist and the bear? How can you become a more consistently thankful person?
- 10 In your own words, what is mutual submission? How is Jesus the ultimate example of what it looks like to submit to another?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?