



Content taken from The Book of Ephesians; 2016; J.D. Greear; RightNow Media

## **Week 7**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Review**

Discuss the following from our lesson in Ephesians (4:17-5:7)

1. What sets Christianity apart from every other world religion?

### **Opening Table Discussion:**

2. How do you usually wake up?

Do you hear a buzzing or beeping from your alarm clock? Or does the radio come on with music or news? How often do you hit the snooze button? Does the morning light gently filter into your room, or do your kids (or pets) run in and jump on the bed?

In many ways, today's Bible study is a wake-up call.

- **Read: Ephesians 5:8-21** and jot down below any words that stand out to you.

### **Video 7**

## **Discussion Questions**

3. What was your reaction to J.D.'s comment that "The Christian life is war." Why do you think he made that point?
4. What metaphors did we hear today regarding the Christian life? Which ones do you resonate with at this time in your life?
5. In verse 8 Paul says "You were darkness" and "you are light." Not *in* darkness or light, but *are*. Why do you think Paul says we *are* light? Is there something in our identity that has changed from darkness to light?
  - a. What does Jesus say in Matthew 5:14? Where does the light come from? (see also John 8:12)
6. "Wake up, sleeper" (verse 14) is thought by scholars to be part of a hymn used by early Christians. What sort of "sleep" do we need to "wake up" from?
7. Verse 16 continues in this line of thought. What "opportunity" is Paul talking about here? How should we "make the most" of it?
8. What is our connection between Verse 17 (understanding the Lord's will) and Galatians 5:25? Ultimately, whose agenda and priorities will grow to be number one in our lives?
9. Do you think that gathering together in worship helps us to "find out what pleases the Lord"? If so, how?

## **Final Thought:**

Are you gaining ground or losing ground? Are you climbing or coasting? Are you in the fight?

## **Closing Prayer**

Dear God, we desire to be engaged in Your ministry for us in the Church. We believe You designed us for life with Christ and life with others. Help us walk in step with the Holy Spirit and Your Word. Show us what Your will is and grant us grace to gain ground, climb, and live with Gospel purpose! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## LAST WORD

In the video, J.D. described six ways to follow God's leading in our lives.

1. **“Look carefully” on how you walk.** Evaluate your way of life in light of God's Word.
2. **Be intentional with your time.** Ditch the schedule-sapping activities and choose to grow in godliness.
3. **Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit when life gets tough.** Avoid cheap escapes like alcohol, and let God fill your life with true power.
4. **Sing the song of redemption in your heart.** Let your emotions fill up with the joy of Jesus.
5. **Sing that song of redemption to others.** Be around the people of God, and share what you have with your fellow believers.

## LIVE IT OUT

**Alert Prayer:** Ask God to wake you up to the opportunities of each day. Then find a time during the day when you “walk and talk with God”—ten minutes of specifically tuning into His voice as you go through your normal activities.

**Time Budget:** How did you use your time last week? You had 168 hours—what did you do with them? Map it out, as best you remember. Then evaluate. How could you adjust your schedule to reflect your priorities? Set a new schedule/budget for this week.

**Coping Check:** When you're stressed, where do you turn? To alcohol or something less damaging but just as wasteful? Can you begin to train yourself to seek the Lord's strength in those times? For now, have Psalms 23, 42, and 103 at the ready, and then find other ways to connect with the Spirit in those critical moments.

**Praise:** Find some creative, lavish way to thank God. Write a song. Do a dance. Make a video. Create a rock garden. Fill your heart with praise and then offer it, as the Spirit leads.

**Worship Together:** Throw yourself fully into the church worship service. Prepare well. Participate enthusiastically. Review it afterward, perhaps talking with family or friends.